

Comments on record supporting IPPC members in MPSC Case No. U-18090

8 State Senators

10 State Representatives

Kent Co. Board of Commissioners

City of Grand Rapids

City of Manton

City of McBain

County of Antrim Administration Office

Missaukee County Commissioners

Manton Police Department

Montmorency Oscoda Alpena Solid Waste Management Authority

Alpena & Montmorency Conservation Districts

Michigan Timber Advisory Council

Michigan Association of Timbermen

Great Lakes Timber Professionals

Michigan Forest Products Council

Michigan Conservative Energy Forum

Sanford Lake Preservation Association

MSU Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife

L'Anse Warden Electric

P.M. Power Group

Morbark Industries

Numerous businesses and citizens

Rogers, Danielle (LARA)

From: John Foote [<mailto:John.Foote@morbark.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 5:14 PM
To: MPSC_Commissioners <mpsc_commissioners@michigan.gov>
Subject: Docket U-18090

Dear Commissioners:

Morbark, LLC is one of the world's leading manufacturers of forestry and wood waste processing equipment. We have a 1 million sq ft manufacturing facility in rural, Winn, MI. I'm writing today to support Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. Please consider the value of biomass power when making your decision in this case.

Morbark employs 450 people, all focused on equipment that process forest residuals and other waste wood that biomass plants use for fuel. It's sad to think that our home state of Michigan could lose its valuable chip market without fair and equitable pricing for biomass power. This is a market that also helps keep the logging and forest products industries sound by providing an outlet for these materials, which would otherwise pile up, create disposal problems or forest fires. We are one of the largest employers in Isabella County. There is also a competitor of ours, located nearby with a similar number of employees, focused on the exact same markets. When biomass markets thrive, so do our companies, employees, suppliers, local communities and the environment. When those markets decline, we suffer the consequences in a variety of ways.

Biomass power has a long history of serving the forest products industry, and will continue to do so if they have adequate pricing.

We ask that the Commissioners please keep all of this in mind when making their decision.

Sincerely,

John Foote



John Foote
SR VP
Morbark, LLC
8507 S. Winn Rd | P.O. Box 1000 | Winn, MI 48896
P: (800) 233-6065 | F: (989) 866-2280
www.morbark.com | John.Foote@morbark.com

This message is being sent by or on behalf of Morbark, LLC. It is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete all copies of the message. Trees are a renewable resource, please feel free to print this email and use paper.



Timber Advisory Council

Council Members
J.R. Richardson, Chair
Charlie Becker
Tim Biewer
Rich Bowman
Jerry Grossman
Jon Lamy
Larry Leefers
Gary Melow
Mike McCuiston
Margaret Minerick
Nick Monkevich

October 10, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express the Timber Advisory Council's (TAC) support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. The TAC asks that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Three of Michigan's biomass plants are a part of that contested case. Without fair avoided costs, these important facilities will close, resulting in a loss of markets for wood residuals and our communities losing jobs. Forest industries cannot afford to lose these revenue streams and outlets for wood wastes. Michigan cannot afford to lose other biomass benefits, like renewable energy and grid support.

The TAC provides advice to and counsels the Governor, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) on policies, procedures, issues, and concerns related to timber management in this state, and fosters the growth of the forest products industry.

Michigan's biomass power industry is a major jobs provider and taxpayer in our communities, in regions that are, generally, economically depressed. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage resources and wood wastes. Without biomass power, wood waste and forest management become costly and difficult.

All these things make biomass power a highly valuable source of energy for the State of Michigan, and we're asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making its decision in this case.

The biomass plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our communities. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

J.R. Richardson
Chair

29639 Willow Road
P.O. Box 695
White Pine, Michigan 49971



DAVE HILDENBRAND

29TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7636

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN**

PHONE: (517) 373-1801

FAX: (517) 373-6801

sendhildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov

September 6, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Office of the Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing MI 48909

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2017

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioners,

This September the Commission is expected to act on Case No. U-18090, which will establish the avoided energy and capacity cost that regulated utilities like Consumers Energy who are obligated to pay to small renewable power generators under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).

With partial rulings to date in this case, the Commission stands to devalue Kent County's Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Qualified Facility (QF) generation by 24 percent, from \$0.084/KWh down to \$0.064/KWh. For Kent County, a \$0.01/KWh change in value equals a \$1 million change in revenue annually.

Kent County, through its Department of Public Works, constructed the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility and commenced operations in January 1990. The WTE is a baseload, renewable energy source, mitigating landfill methane greenhouse gas emissions and diversifying Michigan's renewable energy portfolio. Kent County residents backed \$106 million in bonds to construct and subsequently install Federal Clean Air Act required upgrades at the facility. The facility serves the needs of the City of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Walker, Kentwood, Wyoming and Grandville in Kent County.

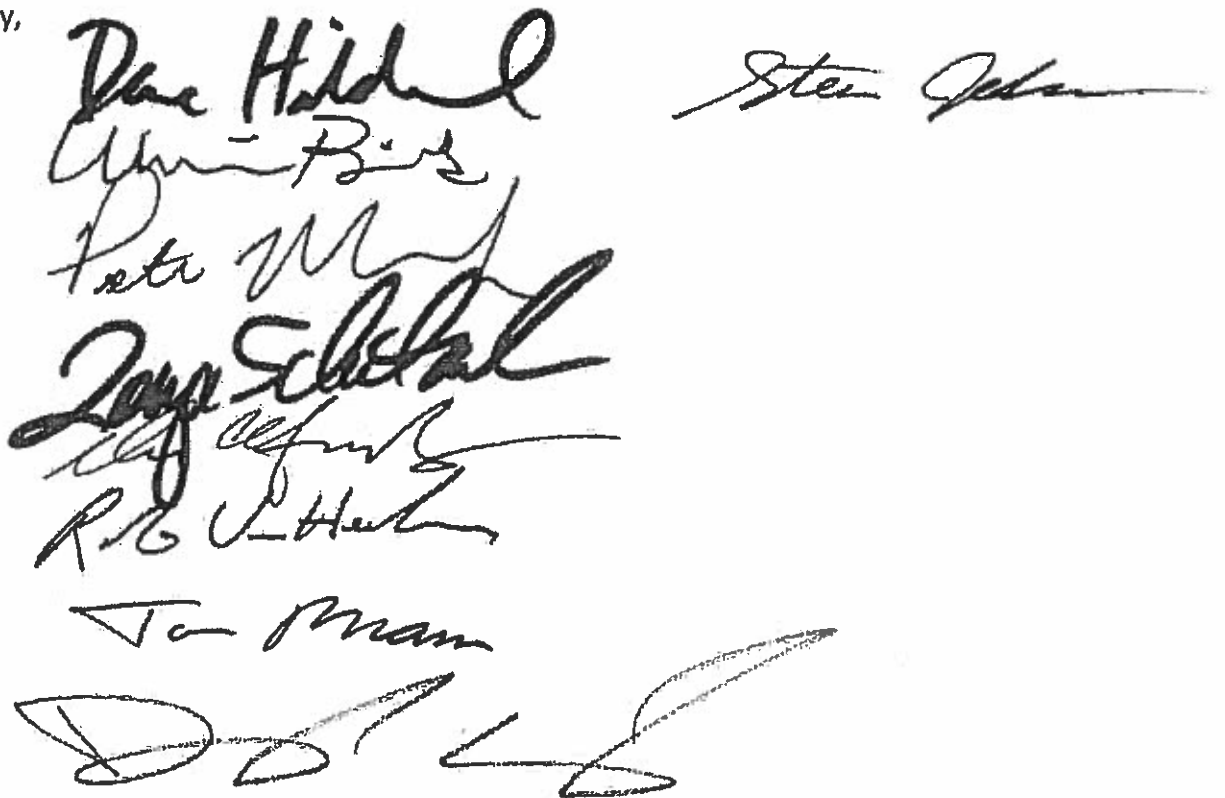
Recognized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as a Clean Corporate Citizen, the WTE, one of four facilities in the Kent County integrated solid waste management fleet, recovers energy from up to 625 tons of municipal solid waste daily. In its 27th year of its expected 50 year life span, the WTE has processed over 5 million tons of refuse providing electrical generation for the equivalent of 11,000 West Michigan homes. Through the metal recovery program the facility has recovered over 124,000 tons of ferrous scrap for new steel production instead of leaving it to waste in a landfill. By providing a 90 percent volume

reduction, the WTE facility has extended the operational life of the South Kent Landfill by preserving 10 years of critical landfill airspace.

The WTE facility requires a balance of energy sales and municipal solid waste tipping fee revenue to operate profitably and like all electrical generation plants, to fund critical equipment refurbishment to ensure continued plant reliability. Kent County has invested an average of \$2.2 million annually in facility refurbishment for the past seven years and the current level of capital expenditure will continue to be necessary and utilizes a 10-year planning horizon for capital improvement fund expenditures for plant refurbishment.

The Kent County Waste-to-Energy facility, a federal "Qualified Facility", is entitled to non-discriminatory treatment in terms of energy and capacity costs, as well as operational needs, such as interconnection and stand-by service, that are given by the Commission to regulated utilities. Attempting to underpay Kent County in a discriminatory manner will substantially increase tipping fees for the six cities in Kent County utilizing the WTE. We the undersigned have serious concerns regarding the devaluation of Kent County's Waste-to-Energy facility generation and the impact such devaluation will have on the vitality of the facility and the residents it serves. It is our hope the Commission will take our concerns under consideration as it positions itself to make a determination in Case No. U-18090.

Sincerely,

The block contains seven handwritten signatures in black ink. From top to bottom, they are: Dan Haidich, Steve Johnson, Jim Bink, Pete M..., Larry Schuchman, Ray Alfano, and R.C. V. H... The signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Members of the Michigan Legislature Representing Kent County

BOARD CHAIR
Jim Saalfeld

BOARD VICE CHAIR
Mandy Bolter

BOARD MINORITY VICE C
Carol Hennessy

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Diane Jones

Legislative:
Mandy Bolter

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Roger Morgan
Stan Ponstein
Phil Skaggs
Stan Stek
Jim Talen
Ted Vonk
Harold Voorhees



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

300 Monroe Avenue N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Administrative Office (616) 632-7580

Fax (616) 632-7585

www.accessKent.com

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SEP 14 2017

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

September 12, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Office of the Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioners,

In September the Commission is expected to act on Case No. U-18090, which will establish the avoided energy and capacity cost that regulated utilities like Consumers Energy are obligated to pay to small renewable power generators under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).

With partial rulings to date in this case, the Commission stands to devalue Kent County's Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Qualified Facility (QF) generation by 24 percent, from \$0.084/KWh down to \$0.064/KWh. For Kent County, a \$0.01/KWh change in value equals a \$1 million change in revenue annually.

While Consumers Energy enjoys full regulated cost recovery, it is now apparent they will not only receive full cost recovery for their own generation resources without the Company's true avoided cost having been established, but the Commission will devalue Kent County's generation and allow Consumers to be enriched by withholding \$2 million in revenue for electrical generation produced at the Kent County WTE. This will require a \$10/ton or 22% increase in MSW tipping fees at the Kent County WTE just to maintain 2016 revenue levels.

Our Kent County Department of Public Works constructed the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility and commenced operations in January 1990. The WTE is a baseload, renewable energy source, mitigating landfill methane greenhouse gas emissions and diversifying Michigan's renewable energy portfolio. Kent County residents backed \$106 million in bonds to construct and subsequently install Federal Clean Air Act required upgrades at the facility. The facility serves the needs of the City of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Walker, Kentwood, Wyoming and Grandville in Kent County.

Recognized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as a Clean Corporate Citizen, the WTE (one of four facilities in the Kent County integrated solid waste management fleet) recovers energy from up to 625 tons of municipal solid waste daily. In its 27th year of operation and an expected lifespan of 50 years, the WTE has processed over 5 million tons of refuse providing electrical generation for the equivalent of 11,000 West Michigan homes. Through the metal recovery program, the facility has recovered over 124,000 tons of ferrous scrap for new steel production instead of it being buried in a landfill. By providing a 90 percent volume reduction, the WTE facility has extended the operational life of the South Kent Landfill by preserving 10 years of critical landfill airspace.

The WTE facility requires a balance of energy sales and municipal solid waste tipping fee revenue to operate profitably, and like all electrical generation plants, to fund critical equipment refurbishment to ensure continued plant reliability. Kent County has invested an average of \$2.2 million annually in facility refurbishment for the past seven years, and the current level of capital expenditure will continue to be necessary and utilizes a 10-year planning horizon for capital improvement fund expenditures for plant refurbishment.

In December 2014, Consumers Energy declined Kent County's request to initiate negotiations for a power purchase agreement (PPA) extension and instead, for 2015 and 2016 filings, notified the MPSC, in their annual Approval of a Power Supply Cost Recovery Plan, of its intent to move the County to a year-to-year agreement. It is impossible to plan plant refurbishment, develop CAPEX budgets, and make return on investment decisions to ensure facility reliability when Kent County is at the whim of Consumers Energy who can unilaterally terminate a contract with a one year notice.

From 2008 - 2017, Consumers Energy has increased its rates to customers by \$759 million, and in March 2017 proposed yet another increase of \$172 million. If the most recent rate request is approved by the Commission, in an 11-year period the rate increases by Consumers Energy will amount to nearly \$1 billion.

The Kent County Waste-to-Energy facility, a federal "Qualified Facility", is entitled to the same, non-discriminatory treatment in terms of energy and capacity costs, as well as operational needs, such as interconnection and stand-by service, that are given by the Commission to regulated utilities. Attempting to underpay Kent County in a discriminatory manner will substantially increase tipping fees for the six cities in Kent County utilizing the WTE, violating the letter and spirit of not only the federal law, but also Michigan's new energy laws and renewable energy goals.

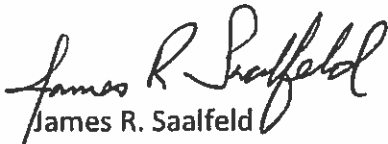
Michigan Public Service Commission

Page 3

PURPA requires that the Kent County Waste-to Energy facility, operating in the regulated Michigan market, be afforded the same financial assurances and market predictability provided to the investor owned utilities like Consumers Energy. MPSC staff and Commissioners must recognize that public policy decisions made on behalf of the regulated utilities also be provided to Kent County.

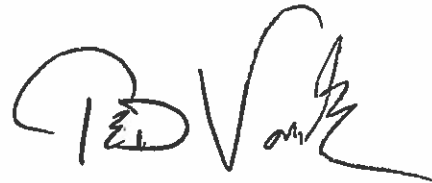
For the reasons noted above, we strongly oppose this filing and recommend that the Michigan Public Service Commission deny Consumers Energy's request in U-18090 related to small renewable power generators.

Sincerely,



James R. Saalfeld
Chair

Kent County Board of Commissioners



Ted Vonk
Kent County Commissioner
Chair of Board of Public Works

EXECUTIVE
OFFICE



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS



August 31, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Office of the Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Commissioners:

In September, the Michigan Public Service Commission is expected to act on Case No. U-18090, which will establish the avoided energy and capacity cost that regulated utilities such as Consumers Energy are obligated to pay to small renewable power generators under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.

With partial rulings to date in this case, the Commission could devalue Kent County's Waste-to-Energy Qualified Facility energy generation by 24 percent, from \$0.084/KWh to \$0.064/KWh. For Kent County, each \$0.01/KWh change in value equals a \$1 million change in revenue, equating to \$2 million annually. This loss of revenue will require a \$10 per ton, or 22%, increase in municipal solid waste tipping fees at the Kent County Waste-to-Energy facility just to maintain 2016 earning levels and balance the Waste-to-Energy facility budget. The business plan for the Waste-to-Energy facility was built based on the Consumers Energy contract.

An increase of this magnitude would place a significant burden on the residents and businesses of Grand Rapids. The City would be compelled to pass this increase to our customers since our cart user fee for refuse collection cannot absorb this increase.

Kent County constructed the Waste-to-Energy facility in January 1990. The facility is a baseload, renewable energy source that diverts waste from landfills, mitigates landfill methane greenhouse gas emissions, and diversifies Michigan's renewable energy portfolio. Kent County residents backed \$106 million in bonds to construct and subsequently install Federal Clean Air Act required upgrades at the facility. The facility serves the needs of the City of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Walker, Kentwood, Wyoming and Grandville in Kent County.

The City of Grand Rapids has long been a partner with Kent County in addressing our solid waste stream to ensure minimal environmental impact. Our residents and businesses have invested heavily with 27 years of higher costs to dispose of our refuse in an environmentally sensitive way. The residents of Grand Rapids support these investments and believe that they should continue.

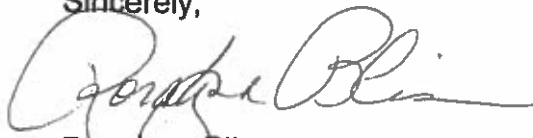
Recognized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as a Clean Corporate Citizen, the Kent County Waste-to-Energy facility recovers energy from up to 625 tons of municipal solid waste daily. In its 27th year of operation and an expected lifespan of 50 years, the Waste-to-Energy facility has processed more than 5 million tons of refuse, providing electrical generation for the equivalent of 11,000 West Michigan homes. Through the metal recovery program the facility has recovered more than 124,000 tons of ferrous scrap for new steel production instead of it being buried in a landfill. By reducing the waste stream volume by 90 percent, the Waste-to-Energy facility has extended the operational life of the South Kent Landfill by preserving 10 years of critical landfill space.

The Waste-to-Energy facility requires a balance of energy sales and municipal solid waste tipping fee revenue to operate sustainably and like all electrical generation plants, to reinvest in critical equipment refurbishment to ensure continued plant reliability. Kent County has invested an average of \$2.2 million annually in the facility for the past seven years. That level of capital expenditure will continue to be necessary. Kent County uses a ten-year planning horizon for capital improvement expenditures for plant asset management.

As a Federal Qualified Facility, the Kent County Waste-to-Energy facility is entitled to the same non-discriminatory treatment in terms of energy and capacity costs and operational needs, such as interconnection and stand-by service that are given by the Michigan Public Service Commission to regulated utilities and no less. Attempting to underpay Kent County in a discriminatory manner will substantially increase tipping fees for the six cities in Kent County that use the Waste-to-Energy facility and will violate the letter and spirit of not only the federal law, but also Michigan's new energy laws and renewable energy goals.

We object to this filing by Consumers Energy and recommend that the Michigan Public Service Commission deny the company's request in U-18090 related to small renewable power generators.

Sincerely,



Rosalynn Bliss
Mayor



Gregory Sundstrom
City Manager



August 22, 2017

Ms. Kavita Kale
Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: MPSC Case No. U-18090

Dear Ms. Kale:

I am writing to express support of the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan regarding small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commissions avoided cost docket U-18090.

As a small biomass power generator, I see the daily economic impact our company provides to local Michigan businesses throughout the forest industry. Biomass power production plants generally utilize wood by-products that are discarded throughout the forest industry value chain. As high-value products such as lumber and pulp wood are produced and used by facilities that are extremely important to the Michigan economy, the by-products generated are either left to waste in the forest, or can be extremely costly to dispose of, as is the case with saw dust and bark residuals.

Three Michigan biomass plants are part of this contested case. These facilities offer valuable services to either provide value to products that would normally be left to waste in the forest, or to provide cost effective alternatives for disposing saw dust and bark. In the process, these plants provide real jobs, pay taxes, and generate base-load renewable power. Without their support, waste wood from the forest and from the forest products industry will become more costly and difficult to manage.

I hope that the Commissioners will consider, and support, the fact that these plants offer significantly more advantages to the state than just producing power.

Sincerely,

Ted Hansen
Chief Executive Officer
L'Anse Warden Electric Company
157 S. Main Street
L'Anse, MI 49946
(920) 438-3835



P.M. Power Group, Inc.

29639 Willow Road, P.O. Box 695, White Pine, MI, 49971 · Phone: (906) 885-7100 · Fax: (906) 885-7400

8/21/2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Three of Michigan's biomass plants are a part of that contested case. Without fair avoided costs, these important facilities will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise go to waste or be landfilled. These generators provide jobs in otherwise economically depressed regions of the State.

Michigan's biomass power industry is a major jobs provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage resources and wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all wood waste and forest management become costly and difficult, and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

Zachary J. Halkola

COO

PM Power Group, Inc.

906-885-7905

zach.halkola@pmpowergroup.com



**County of Antrim
Administration Office**

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2017

Executive Secretary

AUG 18 2017

Executive Secretary

June 20, 2017

P.O. Box 187
Bellaire, Michigan 49615

Phone: (231) 533-6265
Fax: (231) 533-8111
www.antrimcounty.org

Peter Garwood
Administrator

Janet Koch
Associate Planner

Tina Schrader
Administrative Assistant

Margie Boyd
Secretary

Ms. Sally A. Talberg, Chair
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Mr. Norman J. Saari, Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Ms. Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Commissioners:

Enclosed is resolution of support for the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant passed by the Antrim County Board of Commissioners on June 8, 2017. This is in reference to Docket U-18090 filed by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Peter Garwood
Antrim County Administrator

Mark Stone
Antrim County Drain Commissioner
Antrim County Operator of Dams

cc: William Stockhausen – wstockha@sbcglobal.net
Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Power, LLC

Enclosure: Antrim County Board of Commissioner Resolution #17-2017



ANTRIM COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
P.O. Box 520
Bellaire, Michigan 49815
Phone (231) 533-6353
Fax (231) 533-6935
Chairman: EDGAR BOETTCHER, III

June 14, 2017

At the June 8, 2017 meeting of the Antrim County Board of Commissioners, the following Resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION #17-2017 By Dawn LaVanway, seconded by Bryan Smith

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT
BY ANTRIM COUNTY
FOR
ADOPTION OF TRANSFER PRICE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant has provided valuable, renewable energy services to the Antrim County area for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant provides employment and economic support in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant provides REVENUE TO Antrim County through 10% of the gross electricity sales; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant provides significant electric grid support and increases the reliability of the electric system in the immediate geographic area; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant provides significant ad valorem property values by creating lakefront properties; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant, through the creation and maintenance of Elk and Skegemog Lakes, provides resources for recreation such as boating and fishing, and habitat for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant, provides a critical and extremely important barrier to the pristine Antrim County Chain of Lakes from the many invasive species that have been introduced into the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the ability of the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant to continue providing all of these "ancillary services" requires successful operation that depends upon the on sale of electricity through a Power Purchase Agreement; and

RESOLUTION #17-2017 – Continued.

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy has a legal obligation to abide by the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 ("PURPA"), 16 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*, and the rules promulgated thereunder (18 CFR Part 292, *et seq.*), including its mandatory purchase obligation, for Michigan's small power production and cogeneration facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant is a "Qualifying Facility" subject to the PURPA requirements; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy has received a waiver from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") of PURPA obligations with respect to Qualifying Facilities with a net capacity larger than 20 MW, but was denied its request for a waiver for Qualifying Facilities of 20 megawatts or smaller; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy retains its PURPA obligations for facilities with capacity of less than 20 MW; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant has a capacity of 700 kW, thereby requiring Consumers Energy to fulfill its PURPA obligations with respect to the Elk Rapids Hydro; and

WHEREAS, as of this date, Consumers Energy has not negotiated in good faith in front of the MPSC nor offered an extension of the Elk Rapids Hydro Power Purchase Agreement; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Public Service Commission has within its authority to approve avoided costs under docket U-18090 that reflect the value of these ancillary services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Antrim County, Michigan, hereby memorializes its support for the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant and encourages the Michigan Public Service Commission to establish an avoided cost reflected in docket U-18090 that supports the positions proffered by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan as filed in court.

YES – David Heeres, Melissa Zelenak, Karen Bargy, Edgar Boettcher, Bryan Smith, Brenda Ricksgrs,
Dawn LaVanway, Christian Marcus;

NO - None;

ABSENT: Scott Kruger.

RESOLUTION #17-2017 DECLARED ADOPTED.

ANTRIM COUNTY CLERK, BELLAIRE, MI
STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF ANTRIM, ss
I, Sheryl A. Guy, Clerk of the County of Antrim, do
certify the above is a true and exact copy of the
original record now remaining in this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand
and official seal of the County of Antrim

this 14th day of June, 20 17
Sheryl A. Guy County Clerk

Missaukee County Commissioners

111 S. Canal St. Box 800
Lake City, MI 49651
Phone: 231-839-4967
Fax: 231-839-3684

June 13, 2017

Sally Talberg, Chairperson
Michigan Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

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AUG 16 2017

Executive Secretary

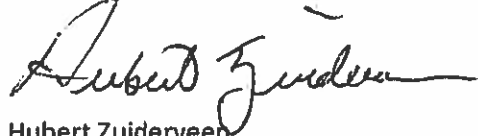
The Missaukee County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on September 10, 2015; a copy is attached. This resolution stated the many reasons that Viking Energy is an important agency providing renewable energy services within the county, creating employment and tax revenues for the City of McBain and the County of Missaukee.

On behalf of Missaukee County, the Board of County Commissioners want to express their support for Michigan's small independent power generators that are part of the commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, Viking Energy of McBain and many other small power producers will close, resulting in the loss of resource-based jobs and tax base that contribute to our quality of life here. Gone, too, will be jobs, economic support, and their contributions to the state's energy portfolio, grid support, and their significant contributions toward Michigan's renewable energy goals.

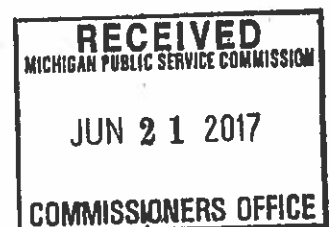
Viking Energy is a tax payer, job provider, and member of our community that provides many additional jobs through support of the local timber economy and the many goods and services purchased from local vendors.

We encourage the Public Service Commission to take these same values into consideration as it sets the avoided costs that will enable these power generators to continue making valuable contributions to their communities and Michigan's energy portfolio.

Sincerely,



Hubert Zuiderveen
Vice-Chairperson, Missaukee County Board of Commissioners



**Missaukee County Board of Commissioners
Lake City, Michigan
Special Board Meeting
Commissioner's Room
September 10, 2015 @ 5:00 PM**

Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Rogers.

Roll Call of Districts: All present except Commissioner Bridson and District 3 (vacant).

Motion by Vivian, supported by Zuiderveen, to approve the agenda with the following additions: County Commissioner District #3 replacement and probation and parole window approval.

Motion by Cairy, supported by Zuiderveen, to adopt a Declaration of Support Resolution for Viking Energy of McBain LLC. Carried.

RESOLUTION 2015-11

**Declaration of Support
by County of Missaukee, Michigan
for Viking Energy of McBain, LLC**

WHEREAS, Viking Energy has provided valuable, renewable energy services to the City of McBain and Missaukee County for over thirty years, and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy is an important employer in the county, providing twenty-one direct jobs and one hundred indirect job over the past thirty years, and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy provides significant direct tax revenues to the City of McBain and indirectly to Missaukee County and has done so for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy's continued, successful operation depends upon the sale of power from its plant; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy's Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA") with the Consumers Energy Company ("Consumers Energy") will expire on December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy has a legal obligation to abide by the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 ("PURPA"), 16 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*, and the rules promulgated thereunder (18 CFR Part 292, *et seq.*), including its mandatory purchase obligation, for Michigan's small power production and cogeneration facilities; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy's McBain plant is a "Qualifying Facility" subject to the PURPA requirements; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy has received a waiver from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") of PURPA obligations with respect to Qualifying Facilities with a net capacity larger than 20 MW, but was denied its request for a waiver for Qualifying Facilities of 1 MW or smaller; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy retains its PURPA obligations for facilities with capacity of less than 20 MW; and

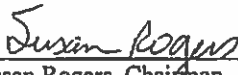
WHEREAS, the Viking Energy McBain plant has a capacity of 16.3 MW, thereby requiring Consumers Energy to fulfill its PURPA obligations with respect to this plant; and

WHEREAS, as of this date, Consumers Energy has not renegotiated or renewed the Viking Energy McBain plant's PPA and is not currently engaged in good faith negotiations to do the same with Viking Energy; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County of Missaukee and its residents that the Viking Energy McBain plant remain operational.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the County of Missaukee, Michigan hereby memorializes its support for the Viking Energy plant and encourages Consumers Energy to negotiate in good faith for a new PPA with the McBain plant in a timely manner.

ADOPTED by full action of the duly-elected County Board of Commissioners of the County of Missaukee, Michigan at its special board meeting held on the 10th day of September, 2015.


Susan Rogers, Chairman


Jessica Nielsen, County Clerk

Motion by Vivian, supported by Vanderwal to appoint Pamela Niebrzydowski as County Commissioner District #3, to be sworn in at the next board meeting. Roll Call Vote: 5 Yeas (Vanderwal, Rogers, Vivian, Hughston, Zuiderveen) 0 Nays 2 Absent (Bridson, District 3). Carried.

Motion by Zuiderveen, supported by Vivian, to allow a window with portal be put in the probation and parole office for better security. Carried.

The board discussed the County Administrator position. Rogers stated that Precia Garland has agreed to take the position of County Administrator. The yearly salary will be \$42,000 for three days per week. She said Garland has asked to belong to two different associations, and allowed \$50 per month cell phone per diem. The board all agreed it would be a work in progress determining how many hours the job will require.

Motion by Vivian, supported by Vanderwal, to hire Precia Garland as the part-time County Administrator, pending the completion of all county pre-employment requirements. Roll Call Vote: 5 Yeas (Vanderwal, Rogers, Vivian, Hughston, Zuiderveen) 0 Nays 2 Absent (Bridson, District 3 vacant) Carried.

Hancock asked if this is a part-time position with benefits. Rogers said benefits would be in line with the other part time positions of the county.

Public Comment:

- Richard Renner asked for the names of those who have applied for County Commissioner District #3, and if the board was considering anyone that had not applied. Chairman Rogers said only one application was received, and the Board was not considering anyone that hadn't applied.

Meeting adjourned until Wednesday, September 16th, 2015 or Call of the Chair.


Susan Rogers, Chairman


Jessica Nielsen, County Clerk

June 1, 2017

RECEIVED
M.P.S.C.

JUL 17 2017

Service Quality Division

Michigan Agency for Energy
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in regard to the position of the Power Producers Coalition of Michigan and their efforts to help provide end use sources for discarded tires while creating clean power to residents and businesses in Michigan, along with other clean end options.

The legislation under consideration by your agency is docket U-18090 and includes two small biomass generator plants that a local "green" business in the Montrose Community (northwest Genesee County), First Class Tire Shredders sends shredded tires to for use in their operations, as well as other business such as there's working in concert around Michigan to keep Michigan clean.

Viking Energy of McBain (6751 Gerwoude Dr, McBain, MI 49657) and Viking Energy of Lincoln (509 W Traverse Bay Rd, Lincoln, MI 48742) are key to the overall efforts of First Class Tire Shredders and the Tire Derived Fuel (TDF), they produce each year and to help limit the dumping of tires into landfills each year. First Class Tire Shredders alone, was able to deliver over one million plus (1,015,000) scrap tires (shredded) to both of these Viking facilities, keeping over 22 million pounds of tires from local landfills

Without the end source options that Viking Energy McBain and Viking Energy Lincoln, provides businesses such as First Class Tire Shredders and other green businesses dealing with old unusable tires, individuals and businesses will have very limited options (if any) other than to just inundate already overwhelmed landfills.

The health risks and environmental risks that tire pollution produces have already been diminished, by the efforts of community businesses like First Class Tire Shredders and similar businesses around the state of Michigan in conjunction with the end source industries Viking Energy of McBain, Viking Energy of Lincoln, and other members of the Power Producer's Coalition of Michigan.

Please help them and other small biomass generators running to continue to do the important work they have undertaken in the effort to efficiently reduce the influx of automobile tire dumping in landfills around the state of Michigan, along with the general careless discard of old tires in our awesome Great Lakes state.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this important matter of supporting Biomass efforts in Michigan!

Respectfully,



Tom Skinner
13040 Country Club Drive,
Clio, Michigan 48420

April 19, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes.

These facilities have allowed us to increase jobs opportunities within my business group and provide a much-needed increase in tax dollars for our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry.

Without biomass power, it will have a negative effect on our operations and ability to get rid of our wood wastes residuals created by our mill and forestry operations. This negative impact could result in the loss of jobs within these operations.

All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,



Thomas Inman
T.I. Forest Products LLC
3878 Prentice
Glennie, MI 48737

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2017

Executive Secretary



American WASTE

Michigan Public Service Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

May 19, 2017

RE: Michigan Public Service Commission Motion (Case No. U-18090)

Dear Commissioners:

The 1978 passage of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act opened the door for small biomass power generation and intended, in part, to: (1) remove barriers for non-utility generation; (2) diversify our energy resources; (3) and allow benefits to be realized from increased energy independence, more use of renewable energy sources resulting in dispersed energy production and added cogeneration. Northern A-1 and American Waste would like to express our support for Michigan's energy diversification, especially for small biomass power generation that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We are asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Our company has been servicing northern Michigan businesses and communities for the past 40 years. We are committed to the quality, safety, and protection of Michigan's environment. We are strong stewards of adopting sustainable practices that benefit the State of Michigan and its residents. Biomass facilities are an integral part of Michigan's sustainability and clean environmental process; they provide a reliable, sustainable outlet and beneficial reuse for refuse derived fuels such as scrap tires, used railroad ties, and clean wood waste that would otherwise be disposed in landfills.

Our company has been doing business with these facilities for over 27 years, providing environmental, municipal, industrial and waste disposal contract services. This partnership has allowed us to grow and increase job opportunities here in northern Michigan.

Without fair avoided costs, the sustainability of these and many other small power producers is jeopardized. Their closure may become unavoidable. This is a real and valid concern. The ability for these biomass plants to co-exist with conventional power plants is a must and a valuable asset to the State of Michigan. Therefore, I ask the Commission to keep these concerns and the full concerns expressed by the IPPC in mind when making your decision on docket U-18090.

These plants are extremely important to our industry, the State, and northern Michigan by providing continued support for job growth and ensuring Michigan remains "Pure Michigan" - as beautiful in the future as it is today. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely

American Waste, Inc.



Edward G. Ascione

Co-President

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2017

Executive Secretary



Kalkaska
Ph 231.258.9030
Fx 231.258.9971

Traverse City
Ph 231.943.8088
Fx 231.943.8068

Charlevoix
Ph 231.547.2162
Fx 231.547.2167

Gaylord
Ph 989.732.4243
Fx 989.732.3923

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090 and am asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes.


These facilities have allowed us to increase jobs opportunities within my business group and provide a much-needed increase in tax dollars for our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry.

Without biomass power, it will have a negative effect on our operations and ability to get rid of our wood wastes residuals created by our mill and forestry operations. This negative impact could result in the loss of jobs within these operations.

All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,



Shawn Muma Logging Inc.

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2017

Executive Secretary

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090 and am asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes.

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All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,

Dennis Moore
Regional Operations Manager
NWA.

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2017

EXHIBITS SECRET





Michigan Public Service Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

May 19, 2017

RE: Michigan Public Service Commission Motion (Case No. U-18090)

Dear Commissioners:

The 1978 passage of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act opened the door for small biomass power generation and intended, in part, to: (1) remove barriers for non-utility generation; (2) diversify our energy resources; (3) and allow benefits to be realized from increased energy independence, more use of renewable energy sources resulting in dispersed energy production and added cogeneration. Northern A-1 and American Waste would like to express our support for Michigan's energy diversification, especially for small biomass power generation that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We are asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

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Without fair avoided costs, the sustainability of these and many other small power producers is jeopardized. Their closure may become unavoidable. This is a real and valid concern. The ability for these biomass plants to co-exist with conventional power plants is a must and a valuable asset to the State of Michigan. Therefore, I ask the Commission to keep these concerns and the full concerns expressed by the IPPC in mind when making your decision on docket U-18090.

These plants are extremely important to our industry, the State, and northern Michigan by providing continued support for job growth and ensuring Michigan remains "Pure Michigan" - as beautiful in the future as it is today. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely

American Waste, Inc.

Edward G. Ascione
Co-President

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2017

Executive Secretary



Kalkaska
Ph 231.258.9030
Fx 231.258.9971

Traverse City
Ph 231.943.8088
Fx 231.943.8068

Charlevoix
Ph 231.547.2162
Fx 231.547.2167

Gaylord
Ph 989.732.4243
Fx 989.732.3923



MANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT *"To Protect and Serve"*

Michael P. Long
Chief

RECEIVED

JUN 06 2017

Executive Secretary

Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

May 31, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in reference to docket U-18090. I'm also writing in reference to the possible closing of both the Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln.

I have been in the Law Enforcement profession for over 21 years, where I've always supported small biomass power generators, along with small businesses in general. I believe that the generators are very important to our communities. I feel that the closing of these small power generators would have a long lasting negative affect on businesses and the communities that surround them. I believe that by keeping these power generators running it will benefit the surrounding communities for years to come.

Respectfully,

Chief Michael Long
Manton Police Department





County of Antrim Administration Office

P.O. Box 187
Bellaire, Michigan 49615

Phone: (231) 533-6265
Fax: (231) 533-8111
www.antrimcounty.org

Peter Garwood
Administrator

Janet Koch
Associate Planner

Tina Schrader
Administrative Assistant

Margie Boyd
Secretary

May 19, 2017

Ms. Sally A. Talberg, Chair
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Mr. Norman J. Saari, Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Ms. Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Commissioners:

We respectfully urge the Commission to adopt the Transfer Price Schedule to establish avoided costs for use by small, qualified facilities under PURPA, as advocated by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090. This issue is of particular significance to us as the supervisors of the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric operation owned by the County of Antrim. We believe that it is of utmost importance that a transparent process of establishing equitable revenues for a publicly owned facility be established in this case, in order to allow a stable basis for future planning and plant management.

In 1997, Antrim County informed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that we planned to abandon electrical generation at the Elk Rapids plant, due to the onerous cost of relicensing and the poor financial performance of the facility by our previous operators. However, after careful research and a series of public discussions, the community determined that the best use of the facility was to continue the production of green power and to secure a new FERC license. The County brought new energetic operators into the plant in 2007, local organizations and volunteers stepped forward to help with the relicensing process that we completed in 2016, and the County invested over \$250,000 to rehabilitate the building in 2014 and 2017. Today the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric is a touchstone for the communities of Elk Rapids and Antrim County for community identity, of which we all are proud and look to as an example of what is possible when we work together.



JUN 06 2017

Ms. Sally A. Talberg, Mr. Norman J. Saari, Ms. Rachael A. Eubanks
Page Two
May 19, 2017

At a time when our community desperately needs diversified energy sources, it defies logic that the electricity market to which we are forced to sell our power be able to use their virtual monopolistic position to beat down independent power producers with rates that could force them out of business. The elected representatives of a municipality or county need a straightforward method to evaluate the financial viability of publicly owned energy facilities in order to make informed decisions on management and planning. The Transfer Price Schedule accomplishes that in a transparent and easily understood way. By forcing independent power producers to negotiate outside of that standard, the Commission places the financial health of our facilities in jeopardy, and in our case, the municipality itself.

When Consumers abandoned the Elk Rapids dam in the 1950s, they left a vacant building at the center of Elk Rapids that eventually became an eyesore. Because the dam maintained the level of Elk Lake, the County had no choice but to purchase it for a dollar and takeover responsibility. Then, with the encouragement of the Department of Energy and the energy sector, we were talked into re-commissioning the facility in the early 1980s. By 1997, Antrim County was losing an average of \$70,000 per year, due to the fact that all the financial projections we were given in 1980 never materialized. Now, the County finds itself facing yet another disappointment, due to the fact that Consumers wants the rules bent to their benefit.

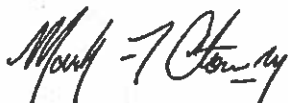
We ask the Commission to do the right thing, establish a fair and transparent standard by which independent and municipally owned producers can sell their power. Adopt the Transfer Price Schedule to establish avoided costs for use by small, qualified facilities under PURPA, as advocated by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090.

Attached for your reference is a copy of a resolution passed by the Antrim County Board of Commissioners on November 12, 2015, declaring support for enhancing net metering in the State of Michigan. A forthcoming resolution of support on this issue will go before the Board of Commissioners in June and we anticipate passage.

Sincerely,



Peter Garwood
Antrim County Administrator



Mark Stone
Antrim County Drain Commissioner
Antrim County Operator of Dams

cc: William Stockhausen – wstockha@sbcglobal.net
Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Power, LLC

Enclosure: Antrim County Board of Commissioner Resolution #26-2015



ANTRIM COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
P.O. Box 520
Bellaire, Michigan 49616
Phone (231) 533-6353
Fax (231) 533-6935
Chairman: MICHAEL CRAWFORD

November 18, 2015

At the November 12, 2015 meeting of the Antrim County Board of Commissioners, the following Resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION #26-2015 By Chuck Johnson, and seconded by Bryan Smith

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT
BY
ANTRIM COUNTY
FOR
ENHANCING NET METERING IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, electric generation near the point of consumption is also known as Distributed Generation (DG) or Net Metering, and has many benefits, and

WHEREAS, these benefits include: the reduction of the strain on distribution systems, the improvement of grid stabilization, the decrease of losses in long-distance electricity transmission and distribution; and

WHEREAS, these benefits also include: a lessening of the effects of fuel supply cost uncertainty, a drop in out-of-state fuel purchases, a reduction of energy generated by less efficient centralized power plants; and

WHEREAS, these benefits further include: an increase in employment and downstream economic effects, an increase in public health benefits from reduced pollution and emissions, and a reduction of water usage and consumption that would otherwise be needed for cooling of central power plants; and

WHEREAS, these benefits are shared by all of Michigan's electricity ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, there are several dozen former hydroelectric plants in the state that have been decommissioned, and several hundred non-powered dams that could be retrofitted for DG and provide needed capacity and affordable, carbon-free energy for compliance with the Clean Power Plan; and

WHEREAS, one site in particular, that would be well suited, is the former powered Bellaire Dam in the Village of Bellaire, Antrim County, which has been studied and considered for this very application; and

WHEREAS, current law does not allow Antrim County to Net Meter at the Bellaire Dam; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Antrim County and its residents that the County be able to Net Meter at the Bellaire Dam;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Antrim, in the State of Michigan, encourages the Michigan State Legislature to increase the current state-wide utility capacity cap on DG from the current 1% to at least 5%; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that solar, wind, anaerobic, and hydroelectric forms of renewable energy as well as Combined Heat and Power systems up to 2 MW be allowed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fair value rates for the DG energy should be established by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), and not the state's Investor Owned Utilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MPSC should also determine fair and equitable costs for DG interconnection with the utility, as well as fair and just demand and standby charges.

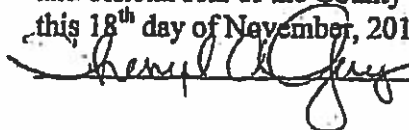
Yes – David Heeres, Robert Wilson, Karen Bargy, Bryan Smith, Michael Crawford,
Laura Stanek, Chuck Johnson, Christian Marcus;

No – None;

Absent – Boettcher.

RESOLUTION #26-2015 DECLARED ADOPTED.

ANTRIM COUNTY CLERK, BELLAIRE MI
STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF ANTRIM, ss
I, Sheryl A. Guy, Clerk of the County of Antrim, do
certify the above is a true and exact copy of the
original record now remaining in this office.
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand
and official seal of the County of Antrim
this 18th day of November, 2015

 County Clerk



103RD DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DAIRE RENDON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE (517) 373-3817
FAX (517) 373-5495
E-MAIL dairerendon@house.mi.gov
www.RepRendon.com

May 9, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Office of the Commissioners
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to request that you consider the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan – which includes Viking Energy of McBain in my district – in Docket U-10890. This would set avoided cost methodologies under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act.

The facilities represented by the IPPC bring a wealth of benefits to the electrical grid, the environment, and the communities where they are located. Providing diversity to the state's energy portfolio while supporting jobs, aiding communities and adding reliability to the state's electricity grid, are the "Safe, reliable, sustainable infrastructure" goals that our Governor has indicated the people of Michigan deserve.

Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, these facilities will close, jobs will be lost, and everyone loses.

I encourage the Commission to recognize their value and agree with the IPPC's position in this docket.

Most sincerely,

Daire L. Rendon
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District 103



County of Antrim Administration Office

P.O. Box 187
Bellaire, Michigan 49615

Phone: (231) 533-6265
Fax: (231) 533-8111
www.antrimcounty.org

Peter Garwood
Administrator

Janet Koch
Associate Planner

Tina Schrader
Administrative Assistant

Margie Boyd
Secretary

May 19, 2017

Ms. Sally A. Talberg, Chair
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Mr. Norman J. Saari, Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Ms. Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Commissioners:

We respectfully urge the Commission to adopt the Transfer Price Schedule to establish avoided costs for use by small, qualified facilities under PURPA, as advocated by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090. This issue is of particular significance to us as the supervisors of the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric operation owned by the County of Antrim. We believe that it is of utmost importance that a transparent process of establishing equitable revenues for a publicly owned facility be established in this case, in order to allow a stable basis for future planning and plant management.

In 1997, Antrim County informed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that we planned to abandon electrical generation at the Elk Rapids plant, due to the onerous cost of relicensing and the poor financial performance of the facility by our previous operators. However, after careful research and a series of public discussions, the community determined that the best use of the facility was to continue the production of green power and to secure a new FERC license. The County brought new energetic operators into the plant in 2007, local organizations and volunteers stepped forward to help with the relicensing process that we completed in 2016, and the County invested over \$250,000 to rehabilitate the building in 2014 and 2017. Today the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric is a touchstone for the communities of Elk Rapids and Antrim County for community identity, of which we all are proud and look to as an example of what is possible when we work together.

Ms. Sally A. Talberg, Mr. Norman J. Saari, Ms. Rachael A. Eubanks
Page Two
May 19, 2017

At a time when our community desperately needs diversified energy sources, it defies logic that the electricity market to which we are forced to sell our power be able to use their virtual monopolistic position to beat down independent power producers with rates that could force them out of business. The elected representatives of a municipality or county need a straightforward method to evaluate the financial viability of publicly owned energy facilities in order to make informed decisions on management and planning. The Transfer Price Schedule accomplishes that in a transparent and easily understood way. By forcing independent power producers to negotiate outside of that standard, the Commission places the financial health of our facilities in jeopardy, and in our case, the municipality itself.

When Consumers abandoned the Elk Rapids dam in the 1950s, they left a vacant building at the center of Elk Rapids that eventually became an eyesore. Because the dam maintained the level of Elk Lake, the County had no choice but to purchase it for a dollar and takeover responsibility. Then, with the encouragement of the Department of Energy and the energy sector, we were talked into re-commissioning the facility in the early 1980s. By 1997, Antrim County was losing an average of \$70,000 per year, due to the fact that all the financial projections we were given in 1980 never materialized. Now, the County finds itself facing yet another disappointment, due to the fact that Consumers wants the rules bent to their benefit.

We ask the Commission to do the right thing, establish a fair and transparent standard by which independent and municipally owned producers can sell their power. Adopt the Transfer Price Schedule to establish avoided costs for use by small, qualified facilities under PURPA, as advocated by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090.

Attached for your reference is a copy of a resolution passed by the Antrim County Board of Commissioners on November 12, 2015, declaring support for enhancing net metering in the State of Michigan. A forthcoming resolution of support on this issue will go before the Board of Commissioners in June and we anticipate passage.

Sincerely,



Peter Garwood
Antrim County Administrator



Mark Stone
Antrim County Drain Commissioner
Antrim County Operator of Dams

ec: William Stockhausen – wstockha@sbcglobal.net
Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Power, LLC

Enclosure: Antrim County Board of Commissioner Resolution #26-2015



DAVID B. ROBERTSON

14TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373 1636

FAX: (517) 373 1453

sendrobertson@senate.michigan.gov

THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:
ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM, CHAIR
FINANCE, VICE-CHAIR
HEALTH POLICY
MICHIGAN COMPETITIVENESS
NATURAL RESOURCES
CAUCUS CHAIR

May 17, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to ask that you consider the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090 to set avoided costs methodologies under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. The facilities represented by the IPPC bring a wealth of benefits to the electrical grid, the environment, the communities where they're located and the citizens of the State of Michigan.

These facilities, whether biomass, landfill gas, small hydro or waste-to-energy, provide homegrown renewable energy made from Michigan resources with local workers. They provide diversity to the state's energy portfolio while supporting jobs, aiding communities and adding reliability to the state's electricity grid.

These facilities are distributed baseload resources that are the "safe, reliable, sustainable infrastructure" that Gov. Rick Snyder says the people of Michigan deserve. They are the epitome Michigan's "no regrets" energy future.

Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, these facilities will close, jobs will be lost, and everyone loses.

These benefits make small, independent power producers a "most" reasonable and prudent source of energy for Michigan, and we encourage the Commission to recognize their value and agreeing with the IPPC's positions in this docket.

Best Regards,

David B. Robertson
State Senator
14th District





106TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-0833
FAX: (517) 373-8446
E-MAIL: sueallor@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUE ALLOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask that you consider the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090 to set avoided costs methodologies under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. The facilities represented by the IPPC, including the Viking Energy facility in my home district, are of great benefit to their individual communities and the state as a whole.

These operations provide homegrown renewable energy and employ hundreds of workers across the State of Michigan. Additionally, these facilities serve to diversify Michigan's energy portfolio and enhance its competitiveness going forward.

Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, these plants will close, jobs will be lost and I believe the state will suffer long-term.

Therefore, I encourage the commission to recognize the value of the IPPC's facilities and agree with their positions in this docket.

Sincerely,

Sue Allor
State Representative
Michigan's 106th District





MICHIGAN SENATE

JIM STAMAS

36TH DISTRICT

May 2, 2017

Ms. Sally Talberg, Chairwoman
Mr. Norman Saari, Commissioner
Ms. Rachael Eubanks, Commissioner
Michigan Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 30221
Lansing, Michigan 48909



Dear Commissioners,


We, the undersigned members of the Michigan Legislature, ask that you adopt the Transfer Price Schedule to establish avoided costs for use by small qualified facilities under PURPA, as advocated by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090. These facilities bring a wealth of benefits to the electrical grid, the environment, the communities where they are located and the citizens of the State of Michigan.


These facilities, whether biomass, landfill gas or small hydro, are the epitome of Governor Rick Snyder's "no regrets" energy future. It is homegrown renewable energy made from Michigan resources with local workers. They bring diversity to the state's energy portfolio while supporting jobs, aiding communities and adding reliability to the state's electricity grid.

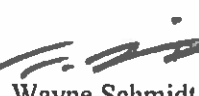
These facilities are distributed baseload resources that are the "safe, reliable, sustainable infrastructure" that Governor Snyder says the people of Michigan deserve. Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, these facilities will close, jobs will be lost, and everyone loses. The Transfer Price Schedule has proven to be a fair and reliable cost-setting mechanism already in use by the Commission.


These ancillary services make small, independent power producers a "most" reasonable and prudent source of energy for Michigan and we encourage the Commission to recognize their value by agreeing with the IPPC's positions in this docket.

Sincerely,


Jim Stamas
State Senator
36th District


Darwin Booher
State Senator
35th District


Wayne Schmidt
State Senator
37th District


Tom Casperson
State Senator
38th District

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

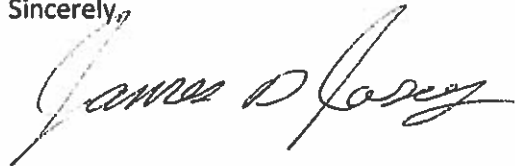
Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,



Owner Josey Forest Products INC

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MAY 17 2017

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

MAY 17 2017

Executive Secretary



Executive Committee:

Max Ericson President Minong, WI	Matt Jensen WI Vice President Crandon, WI	Bruce Enstrom MI Vice President Menominee, MI	Troy Brown Secretary/Treasurer Antigo, WI	Mark Huempfer Member at Large Wausaukee, WI	Dave Slater Member at Large Gwinn, MI	Bill Hennigan Immediate Past President Ishpeming, MI	Henry Schienebeck Executive Director Rhineland, WI
---	--	--	--	--	--	---	---

Jeff Bean
Arpin, WI

May 10, 2017

Scott Bowe
Woodruff, WI

Michigan Public Service Commission
Office of Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Brian Buchanan
Homewood, IL

Aaron Burmeister
Seymour, WI

Dear Commissioners:

Tuffy Burton
McMillan, MI

The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) requests your support of the Independent Power Producers Coalition (IPCC) of Michigan in the matters of docket U-18090.

Wayne Hamann
Medford, WI

Scott Koerner
Oshkosh, WI

GLTPA has roughly 1,000 members in Michigan and Wisconsin who participate in every aspect of the sustainable forest products industry; from educating the public on the benefits of forestry to using biomass to produce energy. Our job is to ensure sustainable, responsible management of our forests. IPCC helps us reach this goal.

Tim Lee
Mellen, WI

IPCC's member rely on fair, reliable avoided-costs. The previously used avoided-costs model has proven to be fair while allowing these businesses to continue operation. Without Michigan's small energy producers, the market for biomass would decrease, leaving a potentially valuable forest product without a use. This would hinder not only GLTPA's goals from a forestry aspect, but could also harm the industry overall through lost jobs.

Guy Longhini
Toivola, MI

Don Nelson
Rothschild, WI

Denny Olson
Quinnesec, MI

We respectfully request you consider IPCC's positions and adopt them as your own. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you for your time.

Jane Severt
Rhineland, WI

Sincerely,

Todd Shamlon
Crystal Falls, MI

Tony Siverling
Eau Claire, WI

Allan Suzan
Ojibwa, WI

Handwritten signature of Max Ericson in dark ink.

Handwritten signature of Henry Schienebeck in dark ink.

Dan Toivonen
Hayward, WI

Max Ericson, GLTPA Board President

Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director

Angie Woodburn
Minong, WI

John Zellar, Jr.
Germfask, MI

3243 Golf Course Road P.O. Box 1278, Rhineland WI 54501
Phone (715)-282-5828 Fax (715)-282-4941 www.gltpa.org

ALBERT LAFLECHE, CHAIRMAN
JACK KISCHNICK, VICE- CHAIRMAN
BILL PETERSON, SEC./TREAS.
STACY CARROLL
CAMERON HABERMEHL
LARRY WILSON



6751 Landfill Road
P.O. BOX 13
Atlanta, MI 49709
(989) 785-6500 Office
(989) 785-6529 Fax
email: MOALandfill@Frontier.com
Website: MOALandfill.com

April 28, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants provide support for the grid, and a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitos that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,


Albert LaFleche
Chairman

Cc: MOA Solid Waste Management Authority Board

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen represents many of the loggers who supply fuel to these facilities. These plants will likely close without fair avoided costs, which will devastate the \$30 million biomass fuel market and impact our members. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like provide a market for waste wood, support for the electrical grid, and economic support for rural communities.

Using forest-sourced waste wood for biomass power helps forest managers and the forest products industry. Without biomass power, these and other benefits will be lost.

All these things make these plants highly valuable and we ask the Commissioners to keep this in mind when making their decision.

These plants are important to our forests, our industry, our state, and our communities. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,

MAT Board

Rogers, Danielle (LARA)

To: MPSC_Commissioners
Subject: RE: Letter of Support for Michigan Biomass from MAT

From: Michelle Sears [<mailto:msears@michiganassociationoftimbermen.org>]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 9:50 AM
To: MPSC_Commissioners <mpsc_commissioners@michigan.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for Michigan Biomass from MAT

Dear Commissioners:

We're writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We're asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen represents many of the loggers who supply fuel to these facilities. These plants will likely close without fair avoided costs, which will devastate the \$30 million biomass fuel market and impact our members. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like provide a market for waste wood, support for the electrical grid, and economic support for rural communities.

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These plants are important to our forests, our industry, our state, and our communities. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,

MAT Board

Michelle Sears

MAT Administrator

msears@michiganassociationoftimbermen.org

Michigan Association of Timbermen

7350 S M123, Newberry, MI 49868

Office: 906-293-3236

www.timbermen.org

www.facebook.com/MichiganAssociationofTimbermen



Sanford Lake Preservation Association
233 E. Larkin St. Ste 2
Midland, MI 48640
989-941-3554

May 8, 2017

Valerie Brader
Executive Director
Michigan Agency for Energy
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Director Brader,

We are writing to support the Independent Power Producers Coalition in their filing on docket U-18090. The Sanford Lake Association represents homeowners on and around Sanford Lake, a reservoir in Midland County created by the Boyce Hydro dam system. Our primary concern is to look after the overall wellbeing of our lake to support its residents and our community. We have witnessed first hand how important it is that the dam operator has the financial ability to make maintenance and structural repairs when needed.

It is our understanding that this month the Commission is expected to act on U-18090, which will establish the avoided costs that regulated utilities are obligated to pay to small renewable power generators under the Public Utility Regulator Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). This federal law provides market access to small, independent power producers. In Michigan, this includes energy produced by biomass, hydroelectric, landfill gas and municipal solid waste.

The facilities represented by this docket produce base load renewable energy that diversifies the state's energy portfolio. From 2012-2015, they have collectively provided Michigan with no less than 35% of the renewable energy credits used to comply with the state renewable portfolio standards.

As homeowners on Sanford Lake, we understand that the hydroelectric dam does more than just provide renewable energy—in 2013, we commissioned an economic impact study with Public Sector Consultants and MSU. This study concluded that Sanford Lake provides \$4.4 million in economic impact to Midland County, not including home property values.

As a lake association we ask that the independent energy producers be treated in a manner that ensures their success. We ask that you support a fair avoided cost structure that will sustain these generation resources.

Sincerely,



David E. Kepler II
President

Sanford Lake Preservation Association
233 E. Larkin St. Ste 2
Midland, MI 48640
989-941-3554

May 8, 2017

Governor Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder,

We are writing to support the Independent Power Producers Coalition in their filing on docket U-18090. The Sanford Lake Association represents homeowners on and around Sanford Lake, a reservoir in Midland County created by the Boyce Hydro dam system. Our primary concern is to look after the overall wellbeing of our lake to support its residents and our community. We have witnessed first hand how important it is that the dam operator has the financial ability to make maintenance and structural repairs when needed.


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As a lake association we ask that the independent energy producers be treated in a manner that ensures their success. We ask that you support a fair avoided cost structure that will sustain these generation resources.

Sincerely,



David E. Kepler II
President

Rogers, Danielle (LARA)

To: MPSC_Commissioners
Subject: RE: Avoided Cost Docket

From: Suhr, Blake [<mailto:SuhrB@cintas.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2017 11:30 AM
To: MPSC_Commissioners <mpsc_commissioners@michigan.gov>
Subject: Avoided Cost Docket

Hello,
Please see attached for a signed copy of the email below.

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants support for the grid, and provide a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitos that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Blake Suhr | Branch Manager
Cintas Corporation
office 231.879.3163 | fax 231.879.3262
6881 US Hwy 131 N | Fife Lake, Michigan 49633
suhrb@cintas.com | cintas.com



This e-mail transmission contains information that is intended to be confidential and privileged. If you receive this e-mail and you are not a named addressee you are hereby notified that you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this communication without the consent of the sender and that doing so is prohibited and may be unlawful. Please reply to the message immediately by informing the sender that the message was misdirected. After replying, please delete and otherwise erase it and any attachments from your computer system. Your assistance in correcting this error is appreciated.

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2017

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

Brook Alloway
Forestry Assistance Program
District Forester
Alpena & Montmorency Conservation Districts
1900 M32 West
Alpena MI 49707

Sustainable forest management is only possible when markets for wood products exist. Local markets support local jobs and promote management of forests which creates healthy forests.

Thank you for your consideration.

City of Manton
306 West Main Street
P.O. Box 100
Manton, MI 49663-0100

Phone: 231-709-1936

"Serving the Community is our Priority"

Office of the Mayor



Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, Michigan 48909

May 1, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

Reference: Docket U-18090

As Mayor, I want to express my concern at the possible closing of both Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln. Our city is classified as a "Disadvantaged City" due to income levels of our citizens in the Manton area. The closing of Viking Energy would directly affect our largest employer, Lutke Forest Products, Inc. The information is very well expressed in the attached letter.

This company is very active in supporting other businesses, non-profit organizations, our schools and community. We need them to continue to have every opportunity to be successful. It appears to us that this not only serves as an economic issue but also an environmental one. These plants are also very important to our community in providing a permanent solution for scrap tire disposal.

Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

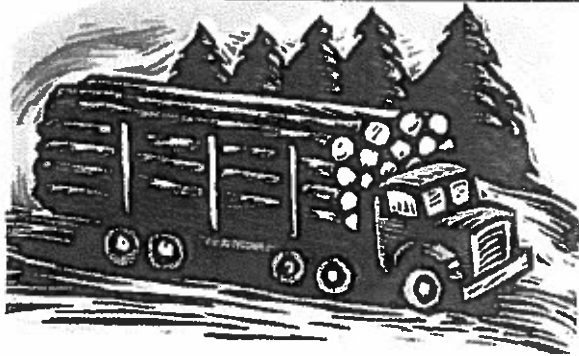
Garry Brown
Manton Mayor
herschelgbrown@gmail.com

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2017

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

LUTKE FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.



615 RW HARRIS DRIVE

MANTON, MI 49663

MAIN PHONE: (231) 824-6655

FAX: (231) 824-9421

WEB: LUTKEEQUIPMENT.COM

Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

April 27, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in reference to docket U-18090. I would like to express not only my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators but also my great concern for the possible closing of both Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln.

I have been in the forestry business since 1992 in Manton, Michigan and employ 60 plus people including two chipping crews with three semis/chip vans dedicated to those crews. I also have 10 in-woods harvesting crews and 19 self-loader trucks. The closing of Viking energy would directly affect my business and community. I will be forced to lay off 15 plus employees, and park several pieces of equipment used with our chip wood operation. Equipment that would then be next to impossible to resell due to the chip wood business being obsolete. I currently am active in my community and donate to many local school and nonprofit organizations. With the loss of the chip wood business, I would no longer be able to contribute to such things as I previously have done. It is also wise to think of the Michigan taxes that my business now pays with fuel taxes at .26 per gallon. Taxes that are designated to help repair our state's roadways. This will also decrease drastically when I am forced to lay off my chip crews and truck drivers and decrease the amount of business I do with fuel, tire, equipment, and parts vendors. The total gross revenue of 2.5 million dollars is rough estimate of lost taxable income that my company alone will incur if these biomass power plants close.

Chipping timber sales not only has a financial benefit to the producers and landowners. It leaves a section of land that has been cut more environmentally friendly and cosmetically attractive. Leaving behind the stumpage that before could have been chipped will now leave large brush piles that will increase the forest fire hazards.

State and Federal Forestry Organizations at times require whole tree chipping in order to facilitate replanting of State and Federal land. Having no outlet for these chips will cause a significant decrease in both State and Federal revenue from stumpage that will be now forced to be left on the ground. Private agricultural landowners will be forced to burn leftover stumpage from a land clearing, which will be an expense versus an income. Private landowners with smaller sections of property often want their land chipped for cosmetic reasons. They will now more than likely hold off from cutting their land leaving our company with yet fewer opportunities for work.

These are only a few concerning issues that I have. The chain reaction to these plants closing will be felt in more ways than can be mentioned to businesses, communities, and families in our area. Thank you in advance for taking the time to strongly consider agreeing with the position of The Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Sincerely,



Jason N. Lutke, President]
Lutke Forest Products, Inc.



98TH DISTRICT
BAY AND MIDLAND COUNTIES
STATE CAPITOL H-372
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE GARY GLENN
ASSOCIATE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
Chairman, House Energy Policy Committee

COMMITTEES:
COMMUNICATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGY
ENERGY POLICY
INSURANCE
MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS

May 2, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioners:

As Chairman of the House Energy Policy Committee, I am writing to ask that you consider the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan (IPPC) in docket U-18090 to set avoided costs methodologies under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act.

The transfer price schedule has proven to be a fair and reliable cost setting mechanism already in use by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Since 2008, the Commission has successfully used this methodology and I see no meaningful reason to change the transfer price schedule.

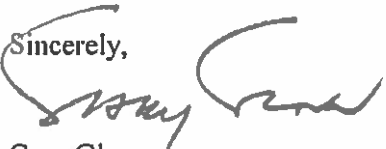
These facilities, whether biomass, landfill gas, small hydro or waste-to-energy, provide homegrown renewable energy made from Michigan resources with local workers. They provide diversity to the state's energy portfolio while supporting jobs, aiding communities and adding reliability to the state's electricity grid. These facilities are distributed baseload resources that are the "safe, reliable, sustainable infrastructure" that Gov. Rick Snyder says the people of Michigan deserve.

Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, these facilities will close, jobs will be lost, and everyone loses.

I encourage the Commission to recognize the value of small, independent power producers and their ability to provide energy for Michigan. I also encourage you to agree with the IPPC's positions in the upcoming docket.

If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 517-373-1791.

Sincerely,


Gary Glenn
State Representative
District 98



Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,



Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

RECEIVED
MAY 04 2017

Executive Secretary

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

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Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

Meghan Cameron
Alpena Community College
Instructor of Mathematics

MAY 03 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

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All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

James L. Stoddard

The importance of jobs in rural areas cannot be over stated. The multiplying effect of infusion of money in small communities cannot be overstated. It is critical for survival. Please continue to invest in our area. We need you.

MAY 03 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.


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These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,


Tom Nowakowski,
Nowakowski Transport

MAY 03 2017

Rogers, Danielle (LARA)

Subject: Hillman Power

From: Brian Wimmer [mailto:brian@Monarchwelding.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 8:30 AM
To: MPSC_Commissioners <mpsc_commissioners@michigan.gov>
Cc: Chris Campbell <chris@Monarchwelding.com>
Subject: Hillman Power

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants support the grid and provide a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs, Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan. These jobs are not only at the plant itself, but the key transportation and maintenance companies that support Hillman Power. In our case, we have provided critical emergency and planned boiler repairs since the plant became operational. Hillman Power is an important customer to not only our company but our families that we employ.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitoes that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I implore the Commission keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.



Sincerely,

Brian Wimmer
President

23635 Mound Rd. 1566 Tech Dr.
Warren, MI 48091 Bay City, MI 48706

519 W. Hackley Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49444

1277 Arbogast Rd.
Union City, MI 49094

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Michigan Lumber & Wood Fiber Inc.
Michigan Lumber & Wood Fiber Hillman Inc.
Comins, MI & Hillman, MI

RECEIVED
MAY 02 2017

Greetings,

My dear commissioners, I write this letter with enthusiasm, passion, and truth. The letter is regarding my, and many others, support for Michigan's small biomass generators that are part of the avoided cost docket U-18090. We are asking you to adopt the positions of the independent power producer's coalition of Michigan.

I feel it's important that you know a little history about the gentleman writing this letter. I am a 44-year-old man that was born and raised in NE Michigan. I have been blessed with being able to carve out a good living for myself in the trucking, logging, sawmilling, lumbering industry, and the 45+ team members that are employed with my operations. It is not easy making a living in NE Michigan, and even more challenging, owning and operating a business here. I believe my success came from starting out as a one-man operation, and growing to where I am today, over the course of 24 years.

The importance of the timber industry in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula is 2nd to none. Our Governor has recognized this and more importantly the thousands of individuals that proudly make their living from our renewable resources, the forest. We have grown into a 20-billion-dollar business, annually, throughout Michigan. The governor asked us to try and achieve 20 billion by 2018 and we have tackled this mission 2 years ahead of schedule!!

Trying to explain how the system works from the standing tree, to the finished cabinet in your house, to the beautiful wood flooring, too the 2X6's used in your walls, or to the biomass that is used to generate electric to power our homes, is something that takes more than one or two pages. In the paragraphs, ahead I am going to do my best to focus on and explain the importance the biomass plants have on our industry here in Michigan.

The small biomass energy plants located throughout Michigan play a very critical role in the harvesting of our renewable resources. They are just as important as the logger harvesting the tree, to Weyerhaeuser manufacturing OSB Board, the truckers moving the products around, the sawmills producing lumber, etc. You see, we all need each other to make it work, and work well.

We are all intertwined and the biomass plants are one of the pieces that keeps our forest healthy, and our people working, and the forest industry strong.

The mere chance of the small biomass plants closing would be very devastating to me and many others operations throughout Michigan. I am a simple man, I work very hard and I believe I have a lot of commonsense. I see so many times where people, corporations, and greed seem to get in the way of what is best for all of us. The small biomass plants are here, they are in operation, they are efficient, they play a very important role in the forest industry, they are part of the reason we have become a 20-Billion Dollar business, they help directly/indirectly collectively employ thousands of people. The small biomass plants are very important part of the circle, they, along with many other operations through-out Michigan are what makes are forest industry circle complete!! We need them to be healthy and to be part of the circle. Without them it will cause my operation (and many others) to greatly reduce operations, or to the point of even closer.

My dear commissioners, without the small biomass plants look at our surrounding states and see how they are challenged without such operations. Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maine and the list goes on. I can recite article after article of the tremendous problems these states are having from not being able to get rid of their biomass.

Paper Plants are closing at an alarming rate, Mulch industry is busting at the seams with way too much material, warmer winters are causing the wood pellet plants to struggle, everywhere we turn there are problems working against us. The small biomass plants DO NOT work against us, the work for us all. They burn biomass to create electricity, they burn tires to keep our landfills from filling up, the back yards from having piles of old tires pilling up, all the tree tops being chipped in the woods, to the sawmill's sawdust, woodchips, and bark. Our state already has more biomass than we have small biomass plants available to burn this material. We need more of the small biomass plants to be built here in Michigan. We absolutely DO NOT need to risk the closure of the ones we have. I wish you, as a commissioner, would mandate that all the small biomass plants have to run at full capacity burning biomass and the recommendation to build 10 more plants.

I can remember very clearly when I was 15 years old going to sawmills during the winter months, watching them lighting all the wood slabs and sawdust piles on fire to let it burn. The sawmill had to do this so it had room to pile another years' worth of material with nowhere to go with it. It is a fact that the small biomass power plants solved this problem by being built and

purchasing this material from the sawmill manufactures. Ever wonder what happens with all the trees, brush, tops, stumps, when the excavating company's clear land for roads, subdivisions, schools, hospitals, and even the tree's from the power lines? I will be glad to tell you a large portion of this material goes to the small biomass plants throughout Michigan. All this material either gets ground up (yes even the stumps) or chipped up and hauled to the biomass plants to be burned. We as a society and our forest are always growing and we really have only a few options: take all this material to the landfill, or push it in a big pile at the clearing site and light it on fire. We are fortunate because we process it on site, and haul it to the small biomass plants to be burned correctly, efficiently, with no pollution and yes, create electricity. Now take into consideration all the tires the small biomass plants clean up and burn through-out Michigan—how can we not want them to be here and be healthy?

From my research, we have biomass, solar, wind, nuclear, coal, and gas/oil to create electricity. What is the best way to produce electricity? I would have to believe it depends on where we are trying to produce it. If we are in Arizona or Nevada probably solar, wind and gas/oil are great ways to go. Up in Wyoming or the Dakota's, I am sure wind mills and coal are best. Maine and Michigan, biomass and gas are probably best.

Undoubtedly, Michigan has become one of the greatest places in the whole world to be in the forest industry. The reason for this is because of our extremely large wood basket: it is renewable and it is healthy. Lastly, because of the complete circle we have to market and manage the whole tree, not just the log.

I am sure you have many things coming at you and, as a commissioner, you must sift through everything to figure out what is the truth, and what is fiction. Everyone believes their side to be the facts, the truth, and that their opinion is all that matters. I have always believed “numbers don't lie, liar's figure” . What I mean by that is, we can make anything appear to come out the way we want it to on paper, but if we are being honest with ourselves and each other the “numbers don't lie”. You ask yourself, what is it that they really want, the electric companies, the small biomass plants, and even what are my objectives? In the end I do not think there is ever the “absolute correct decision” but with the truth and real reason, I believe you will make the best decision for the great state of Michigan, the small biomass plants, the forest industry and for the greater good of all of us.

In closing, I leave you with this:

Knowledge is something we acquire.

Intelligence is a gift.

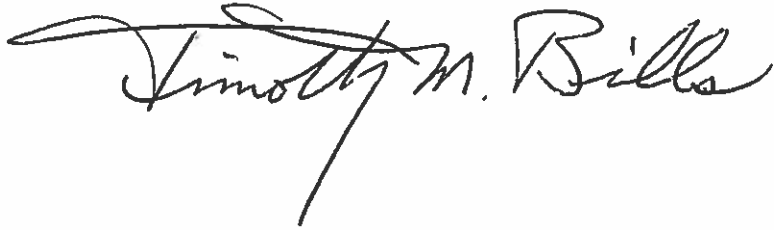
Wisdom comes with time.

I hope you take the "knowledge" I have acquired over the last 24 years of being in the forestry business and believe what I have shared with you in these few short pages. I truly believe that your intelligence and wisdom will lead you to make the best decision for all of us here in this great state of Michigan!

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I would be very excited to take you on a tour of our operations and meet you in person or have a conversation over the phone, if you would like to do that. My office ph. # 989-848-2100 and my cell ph. # 989-370-6712.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy M Bills, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy M. Bills". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

LUTKE FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.



615 RW HARRIS DRIVE

MANTON, MI 49663

MAIN PHONE: (231) 824-6655

FAX: (231) 824-9421

WEB: LUTKEEQUIPMENT.COM

Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

MAY 02 2017

April 27, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in reference to docket U-18090. I would like to express not only my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators but also my great concern for the possible closing of both Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln.

I have been in the forestry business since 1992 in Manton, Michigan and employ 60 plus people including two chipping crews with three semis/chip vans dedicated to those crews. I also have 10 in-woods harvesting crews and 19 self-loader trucks. The closing of Viking energy would directly affect my business and community. I will be forced to lay off 15 plus employees, and park several pieces of equipment used with our chip wood operation. Equipment that would then be next to impossible to resell due to the chip wood business being obsolete. I currently am active in my community and donate to many local school and nonprofit organizations. With the loss of the chip wood business, I would no longer be able to contribute to such things as I previously have done. It is also wise to think of the Michigan taxes that my business now pays with fuel taxes at .26 per gallon. Taxes that are designated to help repair our state's roadways. This will also decrease drastically when I am forced to lay off my chip crews and truck drivers and decrease the amount of business I do with fuel, tire, equipment, and parts vendors. The total gross revenue of 2.5 million dollars is rough estimate of lost taxable income that my company alone will incur if these biomass power plants close.

Chipping timber sales not only has a financial benefit to the producers and landowners. It leaves a section of land that has been cut more environmentally friendly and cosmetically attractive. Leaving behind the stumpage that before could have been chipped will now leave large brush piles that will increase the forest fire hazards.

State and Federal Forestry Organizations at times require whole tree chipping in order to facilitate replanting of State and Federal land. Having no outlet for these chips will cause a significant decrease in both State and Federal revenue from stumpage that will be now forced to be left on the ground. Private agricultural landowners will be forced to burn leftover stumpage from a land clearing, which will be an expense versus an income. Private landowners with smaller sections of property often want their land chipped for cosmetic reasons. They will now more than likely hold off from cutting their land leaving our company with yet fewer opportunities for work.

These are only a few concerning issues that I have. The chain reaction to these plants closing will be felt in more ways than can be mentioned to businesses, communities, and families in our area. Thank you in advance for taking the time to strongly consider agreeing with the position of The Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason N. Lutke', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

[Jason N. Lutke, President]
Lutke Forest Products, Inc.

FIRST CLASS TIRE SHREDDERS, INC.

7302 W. VIENNA RD.

CLIO, MI. 48420

PHONE: 810-639-4466

FAX: 810-639-3125

firstclassfirm@yahoo.com

www.feshredsales.com

DATE: April 24, 2017

REF: / Supporting Biomass

Dear Commissioners,

If we could please, take a moment of your time. We are writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass generators. These are a part of the commissions avoided cost docket U-18090, and we'd like to ask you to adopt the positions of the Power Producer's Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain, and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. These two biomass facilities provide our business with a critical end source for the Tire Derived Fuel (TDF) we make each year. Without this end source, we go back to placing about 1,015,000 scrap tires, (22,837,500 lbs) of tire rubber, into the landfill each year, and the state will lose 342,562,500,000 btu ability to make energy. Without this end source, we will have to terminate 45% of our employees that will no longer be needed for the second phase of TDF preparation. Without this end source, tire disposal rates will triple due to us losing biomass income and now having to pay for disposal. Individuals and businesses can't, and won't pay this to dispose of tires. Our landfills will be bombarded with millions of tires that they have no interest in handling. Thus them charging \$10.00 each, then bringing those tires here to us.

This will continue to happen to all of the processors relying on biomass to use their end product. Viking and McBain shutting down biomass usage will release a minimum of 2.8 million scrap tires (63,000,000 lbs.), each year, into the state of Michigan's landfills, lakes, fields, woodlands, road sides, and buildings. The same issues we had before.

RECEIVED

MAY 03 2017

Michigan State Police

Michigan is looking terrific. We have also greatly lowered the health risks associated with scrap tires, stagnancy, and mosquitos. Do we really want to go backwards in our efforts to square one, only to start over what we should have never stopped to begin with? Please keep our small biomass generators running. The negative impact this would have is real. The trickle effect is real. Polluting our beautiful state again... well...it is real.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry E. Powell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and "P".

Harry E. Powell (owner)
& our First Class team

Manton Consolidated Schools

NCA Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
105 Fifth Street • Manton, Michigan 49663

Dedicated to providing opportunities for the development of the whole student's potential since 1873

Leonard G. Morrow, Jr., Superintendent
231-824-6411
Fax 231-824-4101

Char Siddall, High School Principal
231-824-6411
Fax 231-824-6114

Ryan Hiltner, Middle School Principal
231-824-6401
Fax 231-824-4121

Jon Paul Kotona, Elementary Principal
231-824-6413
Fax 231-824-6804

April 28, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Leonard Morrow, and I currently serve as Manton Consolidated Schools superintendent. I am writing to express my concern about docket U-18090 which could result in the closing of Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln. The closure of these facilities will have a direct negative impact on my school and community.

Lutke Forest Products is one of the largest employers in our area. The closure of these facilities will result in laying off 15 employees from this family owned and run business. This would have a devastating impact on our school. The loss of good paying jobs in an area where good jobs are not very abundant would result in those employees quite likely leave the area to look for employment elsewhere. The loss of those families in my district could very easily be a six figure loss in revenue to our district. In addition, Lutke Forest Products is one of the most generous donors to our schools. During these tough financial times, donors like Lutke Forest Products help fill in gaps and provide things for our school that our students would otherwise not have or experience. Obviously, the loss of some financial support from their company would be felt throughout my entire district.

Not only is this a loss for our school, but for our community as well. Lutke Forest Products is a huge supporter of the City of Manton. They sponsor countless events that take place in our community to not only enhance our little town, but make it a better place. It is the sense of community and belonging that Lutke Forest Products helps provide Manton. I fear what impact this would have on our town.

I strongly encourage the commissioners to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan. As demonstrated the ripple effect on my school and community would be devastating. Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance. My school number is (231) 824-6411, home is (231)824-9686, and my cell is (231) 709-3217.

Leonard G. Morrow, Jr.



Manton Consolidated Schools Superintendent



MAY 03 2017

Executive Secretary

April 20, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

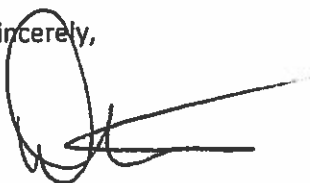
I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small independent power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of Lincoln is located in Lincoln Michigan. Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, this and many other small power producers will close, resulting in the loss of resource-based jobs and tax base that contribute greatly to our quality of life here. Unemployment in our region is already high, and we can't afford to lose these jobs and economic support. Gone, too, will be their contributions to the state's energy portfolio, grid support, their significant contributions toward Michigan's renewable energy goals, and a host of other benefits.

Viking Energy of Lincoln is a major tax payer, job provider, and member of our community that accounts for many additional jobs through support of the local timber economy and from the many goods and services purchased from local vendors.

These ancillary services make facilities like Viking Energy of Lincoln the "most" reasonable and prudent source of energy. I encourage the Commission to value these services as it sets the avoided costs that will enable these power generators to continue making valuable contributions to their communities and Michigan's energy portfolio.

Sincerely,



Village of Lincoln
Downtown Development Authority

APR 20 2017
Executive Secretary

April 20, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

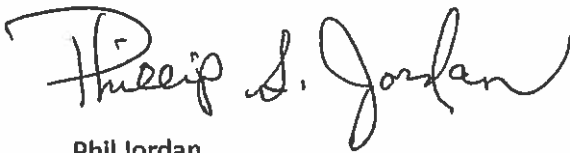
I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small independent power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of Lincoln is located in Lincoln Michigan. Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, this and many other small power producers will close, resulting in the loss of resource-based jobs and tax base that contribute greatly to our quality of life here. Unemployment in our region is already high, and we can't afford to lose these jobs and economic support. Gone, too, will be their contributions to the state's energy portfolio, grid support, their significant contributions toward Michigan's renewable energy goals, and a host of other benefits.

Viking Energy of Lincoln is a major tax payer, job provider, and member of our community that accounts for many additional jobs through support of the local timber economy and from the many goods and services purchased from local vendors.

These ancillary services make facilities like Viking Energy of Lincoln the "most" reasonable and prudent source of energy. I encourage the Commission to value these services as it sets the avoided costs that will enable these power generators to continue making valuable contributions to their communities and Michigan's energy portfolio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip S. Jordan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Philip" being the most prominent part.

Phil Jordan
Village of Lincoln
Village President

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2017

Executive Secretary

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes.

These facilities have allowed us to increase jobs opportunities within my business group and provide a much-needed increase in tax dollars for our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry.

Without biomass power, it will have a negative effect on our operations and ability to get rid of our wood wastes residuals created by our mill and forestry operations. This negative impact could result in the loss of jobs within these operations.

All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,



Chris Yates

Yates Forest Products
7110 Woodlea Rd
Oscoda, MI 48750

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2017
Executive Secretary

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

Ben Nowakowski

Forester

Owner, BN Forest Management

P.S. Wood waste from sawmills delivered to biomass plants adds value to sawlogs. Added value to sawlogs increases stumpage prices to all forest landowners. A loss of a local biomass market impacts all private forest landowners who sell timber. Low grade biomass markets are crucial for a healthy forest industry.

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2017

Executive Secretary



NEMROC

800 Bolton Street
Alpena, MI 49707

Phone: 989-356-6141
Fax: 989-356-1607

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

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Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

CEO

NEMROC

MAY 01 2017

April 19, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes.

These facilities have allowed us to increase jobs opportunities within my business group and provide a much-needed increase in tax dollars for our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry.

Without biomass power, it will have a negative effect on our operations and ability to get rid of our wood wastes residuals created by our mill and forestry operations. This negative impact could result in the loss of jobs within these operations.

All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,



Tony Rosebrugh
T.R. Timber Company
502 East State Road
West Branch, MI 48661

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2017

Executive Secretary

Valley Machine

24215 Carrier Rd. ~ Hillman, MI 49746 ~ 989-742-7211

April 27, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Company is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants provide support for the grid, and a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs, Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitoes that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I am asking that the Commission keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,



Kim Behring
Owner
Valley Machine
24215 Carrier Rd.
Hillman, MI 49746

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2017

Executive Secretary

April 18, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of Lincoln, LLC is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes, scrap tires and railroad ties that would otherwise be wasted or landfilled.

Viking Energy of Lincoln, LLC is a major job provider and taxpayer in my community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,



Gregory Harmon
Harmon Logging
2120 S Buhl Road
Mikado, MI 48745

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2017

Executive Secretary

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Before we used to dump our wood waste in the landfill. Now we sell it and keep it out of the environment.
Sincerely,

John Nowakowski

MAY 01 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants provide support for the grid, and a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitos that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,

 4/24/17

Scott A Black

Manager

Crystal Flash / Hillman Plant

16309 Co. Rd 451

Hillman, MI 49746

APR 28 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

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These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Strzelecki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Anthony Strzelecki
Northeastern Trucking LLC

RECEIVED

APR 28 2017

EX-100-150000

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

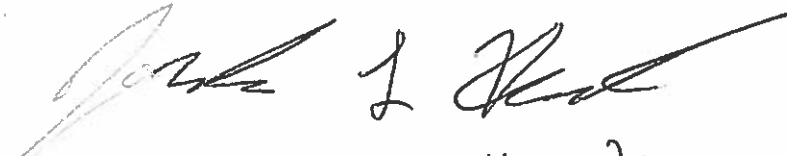
Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,



Jordan L. Hmcke

Hmcke Logging LLC

APR 28 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

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Sincerely,



ERIC J. HWACKA

HWACKA LOGGING LLC

APR 28 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

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All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,



APR 28 2017

Timberline South LLC
Po Box 2336
Gaylord MI
49735



C M Rubber Technologies, Inc
4602 W. Saginaw Rd.
P.O. Box 136
Coleman, MI 48618
P-989-465-0200 > F-989-465-6350

April 24, 2017

APR 28 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the commission's avoided cost docket U-18090 and asking you to adopt the position of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, these and many other small power producers will be forced to close. These Biomass facilities provide our business with a **CRITICAL** outlet for scrap tires generated from a legally operated facility located in the state of Michigan.

I have been in the tire recycling business for 13 years and working with MDEQ STAC program trying to develop sustainable end markets and to date there has been no other sustainable market to emerge. The fact is TDF is currently the only reliable and stable end market for scrap tires in Michigan.

Michigan has very limited options for scrap tires. TDF is the largest end product for tire processors in the state of Michigan. My company alone sends 90% of our scrap tires to power houses for use at their facilities. **C M Rubber technologies, Inc. would be forced to close our doors if this option was no longer available.**

Land filling scrap tires is very costly and would increase the fees that we would need to charge our customers; this will in turn lead to more illegal haulers disposing of their tires by illegal dumping. Michigan is finally at a point in our state where these tire piles are a thing of the past. By not supporting the position of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan we will be going backwards in our efforts to keep Michigan beautiful.

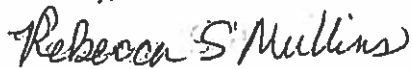
Without these two facilities providing an outlet of over 2.8 million scrap tires annually, we will be back to the days of abandoned tires piles on state and vacant land. They will again be piled up in old abandoned buildings in cities that seem to readily catch fire. We also need to look at the environmental impact of toxins seeping into our ground water from scrap tire fires and let's not forget the impact of West Nile Virus that these abandoned tires incubate along with the possibility of the Zika Virus migration.

C M RUBBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
4602 W. SAGINAW RD.,
COLEMAN, MI 48618

These are all very real and valid concerns, which is why these **biomass plants are more important and valuable** to our industry, state and community than regular power plants. Therefore, I am asking the commission to please keep these concerns in mind when making your decision on docket U-18090.

These Plants provide such a valuable, permanent and viable solution for scrap tire disposal. As a small business that will be greatly impacted by your decision, it literally is the difference of keeping our doors open or closing down. I am asking you to please support these biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,



Rebecca S Mullins
General Manager/Owner
C M Rubber Technologies, Inc.
989-465-0200

April 19, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes.

These facilities have allowed us to increase jobs opportunities within my business group and provide a much-needed increase in tax dollars for our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry.

Without biomass power, it will have a negative effect on our operations and ability to get rid of our wood wastes residuals created by our mill and forestry operations. This negative impact could result in the loss of jobs within these operations.

All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,



Jack Inman
4171 W. Fraser Road
Glennie, MI 48737

APR 28 2017

APR 28 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

William E. Tremair

WILLIAM E. TREMAIR

530 PLYMOUTH DR

ALPENA, MICH.

49707

989 356 0077

APR 28 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

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All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,



HARLAN L HUFFMAN
309 N. RIPLEY BL
ALPENA MI 49707

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants support for the grid, and provide a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitos that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,



CCI

APR 28 2017

APR 28 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

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Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,

Mike Stungill

Fairview Woodyard, LLC
763 E. Miller Road, PO Box 88
Hillman, MI 49746
989-848-2007

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

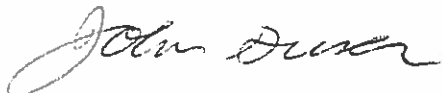
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Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,


John Gusler

RECEIVED

APR 28 2017

CITY OF McBAIN

P.O. Box 95
McBain, Michigan 49657

April 21, 2017

Dear Commissioner:


I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small independent power generators that are part of the commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I'm asking you to adopt the positions of the independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain is located in the City of McBain, Michigan. Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, this and many other small power producers will close, resulting in the loss of resource-based jobs and tax base that contribute greatly to our quality of life here. Unemployment in our region is already high, and we can't afford to lose these jobs and economic support. Gone, too, will be their contributions to the state's energy portfolio, grid support, their significant contributions toward Michigan's renewable energy goals, and a host of other benefits.

Viking Energy of McBain is a major tax payer, job provider, and member of our community that accounts for many additional jobs through support of the local timber economy and from the many goods and services purchased from local vendors.

These ancillary services make facilities like Viking Energy of McBain the "most" reasonable and prudent source of energy. I encourage the commission to value these services as it sets the avoided costs that will enable these power generators to continue making valuable contributions to their communities and Michigan's energy portfolio.

Sincerely,

 Mayor City of McBain.

Mayor
Clark Dykhouse

City Clerk
Marcia Smith
Phone: 231-825-2000
Fax: 231 825-0399

Treasurer
Heidi Heuker
Phone: 231 825-0186

DPW
Craig Fisher
Phone: 231 825-2222
Fax: 231 825-2222

Cemetery Sexton
Dick Geeseman
Phone: 231 825-2222

APR 28 2017

**DECLARATION OF SUPPORT
BY
CITY OF MCBAIN, MICHIGAN
FOR
VIKING ENERGY OF MCBAIN, LLC**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Viking Energy has provided valuable, renewable energy services to the City of McBain for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy is an important employer in the community, providing twenty-one direct jobs and one hundred indirect jobs over the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy provides significant tax revenues to the City of McBain and has done so for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy's continued, successful operation depends upon the sale of power from its plant; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy's Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA") with the Consumers Energy Company ("Consumers Energy") will expire on December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy has a legal obligation to abide by the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 ("PURPA"), 16 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*, and the rules promulgated thereunder (18 CFR Part 292, *et seq.*), including its mandatory purchase obligation, for Michigan's small power production and cogeneration facilities; and

WHEREAS, Viking Energy's McBain plant is a "Qualifying Facility" subject to the PURPA requirements; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy has received a waiver from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") of PURPA obligations with respect to Qualifying Facilities with a net capacity larger than 20 MW, but was denied its request for a waiver for Qualifying Facilities of 1 MW or smaller; and

WHEREAS, Consumers Energy retains its PURPA obligations for facilities with capacity of less than 20 MW; and

WHEREAS, the Viking Energy McBain plant has a capacity of 16.3 MW, thereby requiring Consumers Energy to fulfill its PURPA obligations with respect to this plant; and

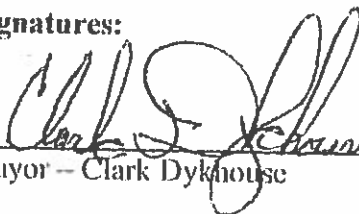
WHEREAS, as of this date, Consumers Energy has not renegotiated or renewed the Viking Energy McBain plant's PPA and is not currently engaged in good faith negotiations to do the same with Viking Energy; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the City of McBain and its residents that the Viking Energy McBain plant remain operational.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of McBain, Michigan hereby memorializes its support for the Viking Energy plant and encourages Consumers Energy to negotiate in good faith for a new PPA with the McBain plant in a timely manner.

ADOPTED by full action of the duly-elected City Council of the City of McBain, Michigan at its regularly scheduled meeting held on Monday, August 10, 2015.


Signatures:


Mayor – Clark Dykhouse

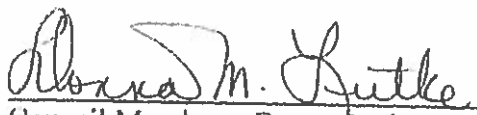

Mayor Pro-Tem – Charles Heethuis


Clerk – Marcia Smith



Treasurer – Heidi Heuker


Council Member – Charles DeCator


Council Member – Donald Heuker


Council Member – Donna Lutke


Council Member – Bernard Scholten


Council Member – Kenneth Stahl

APR 28 2017

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090, and ask that you adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

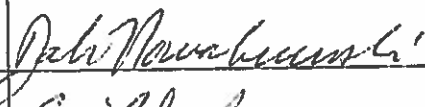
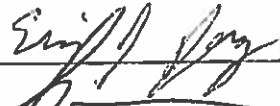
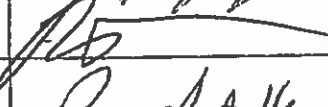
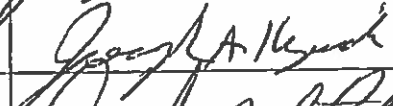
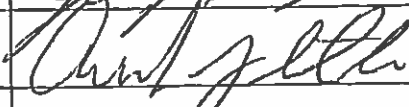
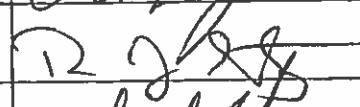
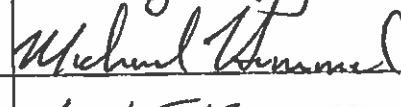




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Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and we ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,

NAME (please print)	SIGNATURE	COMPANY
John Nowakowski		John Nowakowski Sawm
ERIC Jasey		Jasey Forest Products Inc
Dave Timm		Daves Custom Tillage
JOE KURNICKI		Proffs Lumber
Anthony Strzelecki		Northeastern Trucking LLC
Rebecca Strzelecki		Northeastern Trucking LLC
Michael Hummel		E.H. Tulgestka + Sons, Inc
ERIC J. HICKA		HICKA LOGGING LLC
Jordan L. Hicka		Hicka Logging LLC
Jim Payne		Timberline Logging
Kim BEURING		VALLE MACHINE

[illegible]

FORTISTAR Biomass Group

Environmental Rubber Recycling Inc.

6515 North Dort Highway ♦ Flint, Michigan 48505

Tel. (810) 789-1222 ♦ Fax. (810) 275-6500

April 28, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090 and asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain, Viking Energy of Lincoln and Hillman Power Company are some of the plants involved, all of which we supply tdf to. Without fair avoided costs, these and many other small power producers will be forced close. These biomass facilities provide our business with a critical outlet for scrap tires generated from legally operated process facilities located in the state of Michigan.

With limited options at this time for the use of Michigan scrap tires, these facilities provide an outlet for over 3.6 million scrap tires annually for the state of Michigan and over 30 million year to date. They also played a critical role in cleaning up millions of abandoned tires located throughout the state, which cost the tax payers millions of dollars to clean up.

These are all real and valid concerns, which make these biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants. I'm asking the Commission to keep these concerns in mind when making the decision on docket U-18090.

In addition, these plants are very important to our industry, the State and my community in providing a permanent solution for scrap tire disposal. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bud" followed by a stylized surname.

Bud Dingus
Plant Manager
Environmental Rubber Recycling, Inc.



Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing on behalf of the Michigan Forest Products Council in support of Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We're asking you to adopt the positions proposed by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan so these vital operations can be retained.

The MFPC represents the state's box board, pulp and paper, industrial landowners, loggers and lumber manufacturers that make up a large part of this \$20 billion Michigan forest industry. Our members rely on the biomass power industry to provide a market for forest residuals and manufacturing wood wastes.

Biomass is a part of sustainable forest management, and reduces the costs of forest products that would otherwise be passed on to consumers. Markets for these low valuable residuals are critical for the supply chain from loggers to secondary manufacturers.

The biomass plants that are part of this docket would likely close without fair avoided costs, eliminating an important outlet for wood wastes. Furthermore rural jobs will be lost, along with the market benefits that biomass power provides. Rural Michigan needs these jobs to sustain our local economies and the rural communities that rely on utilizing forest resources for a robust local economy.

All these things make these plants extremely valuable and we ask the Commission to keep this in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,

Scott Robbins
MFPC Director of SFI and Forest Policy
110 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 100
Lansing, MI 48933
517-853-8880

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants support for the grid, and provide a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitos that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,

Timothy Hone

Chemical Engineer

HONE ENGINEERING, INC.

Farmington Hills, Mi

NORTHERN TIMBERLANDS, INC.

8492 YUILL STREET • P.O. BOX 337 • VANDERBILT, MI 49795 • PHONE (989) 983-9688 • FAX (989) 983-9678

April 26, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in Northern Michigan losing skilled jobs high paying jobs, service providers, and many other services depending on this plant for a diverse number of jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs or the many other advantages biomass power does like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

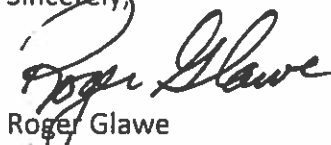
Using waste wood for energy allows USFS fire control harvests to be utilized for protection of many acres of productive forest as well as fire protection for homes of private citizens. Waste wood energy also makes many companies in Michigan feasible that are producing building materials because they can economically dispose of their waste products instead of wastefully landfilling the material.

Hillman Power Co directly and indirectly benefits private citizens as well as industry throughout the area of Northern Michigan.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,



Roger Glawe
President

NORTHERN TIMBERLANDS, INC.

8492 YUILL STREET • P.O. BOX 337 • VANDERBILT, MI 49795 • PHONE (989) 983-9688 • FAX (989) 983-9678

April 25, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express our support for Michigan's small biomass power generators, who are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. I ask that you support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and other small biomass plants will close, resulting in our community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes that would otherwise have to go to a landfill.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer in our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry manage their wood wastes.

Without biomass power, all these problems return and people lose their jobs.

All these things make biomass plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I'm asking the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and our community. Please support the biomass plants.

Sincerely,



Dan Glawe
General Manager



RECEIVED

APR 26 2017

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

105TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TRISTON COLE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-0829
FAX: (517) 373-1841
E-MAIL: tristoncole@house.mi.gov

April 19, 2017

Chairwoman Talberg,

I am writing to ask that you adopt the Transfer Price Schedule to establish avoided costs for use by small, qualified facilities under PURPA, as advocated by the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in docket U-18090. These facilities bring a wealth of benefits to the electrical grid, the environment, the communities where they are located and the citizens of the State of Michigan.

These facilities, whether biomass, landfill gas or small hydro, are the epitome of Governor Rick Snyder's "no regrets" energy future. It is homegrown renewable energy made from Michigan resources with local workers. They bring diversity to the state's energy portfolio while supporting jobs, aiding communities and adding reliability to the state's electricity grid.

These facilities are distributed baseload resources that are the "safe, reliable, sustainable infrastructure" that Governor Snyder says the people of Michigan deserve. Without fair and non-discriminatory avoided costs, these facilities will close, jobs will be lost, and everyone loses. The Transfer Price Schedule has proven to be a fair and reliable cost-setting mechanism already in use by the Commission.

These ancillary services make small, independent power producers a "most" reasonable and prudent source of energy for Michigan and we encourage the Commission to recognize their value by agreeing with the IPPC's positions in this docket.

Sincerely,

Triston Cole
State Representative
105th District



Global Lubricants



NORTHERN ENERGY, INC.
PO BOX 1237
231 S. INDIANA
GAYLORD, MI 49734
Tel 989 732 5495
Fax 989 732 9242

April 24, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

Hillman Power Co. is one of the plants involved. Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants provide support for the grid, and a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill.

Without fair avoided costs Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and jobs will be lost in Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

Hillman Power is a major job provider and taxpayer. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitos that carry diseases. The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,
Dan Miller
Northern Energy Inc.
Gaylord, MI 49735



1st **SOURCE** **ELITE**
Chevron Lubrication Marketer

INDUSTRIAL FIREBRICK CORPORATION

REFRACTORY SALES & SERVICE

5965 Clay Avenue S.W.

Wyoming, Michigan 49548



SPECIALIZING IN

24 HOUR SERVICE

616-363-0807

Fax 616 -363-6601

DESIGN

FABRICATION

GUNITE

CONSTRUCTION

April 21, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission

PO Box 30221

Lansing, MI 48909

Attn: Office of the Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

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Sincerely,

Torre Lewis

Torre Lewis

Controller/Safety Manager

Industrial Firebrick Corporation



MADISON
Consulting LLC

Dear Public Utility Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

I have several clients that are involved, this includes Hillman Power Company, Viking Energy of McBain and Lincoln, Cadillac Renewable Energy, Grayling Generating and Genesee Power.

Biomass power is not like ordinary power from coal or natural gas. These small power plants support for the grid, and provide a market for waste wood and scrap tires that would otherwise pile up or go to a landfill. These facilities also provide steady and reliable renewable energy.

Without fair avoided costs Hillman Power and other plants like it will likely close and many jobs will be lost in small towns such as Hillman and around Northern Michigan.

These plants are major job providers and taxpayers in their area. Using waste wood from the forest aids forest health and the forest products industry by paying for their wood wastes. Using scrap tires as fuel with the wood fuel eliminates them from the landscape and reduces the risk of tire fires and mosquitos that carry diseases.

The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,

Tamra S. Van Til
President

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

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The loss of Northern Michigan's small biomass power plants is not a good thing for the State of Michigan or its electricity customers.

I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,



Jason Hance
Location Manager
1240 US 23 North
Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: 989-356-3411 x 1803
Mobile: 989-590-7564
Fax: 989-356-1138
jason.hance@kendallelectric.com



Dear Commissioners:

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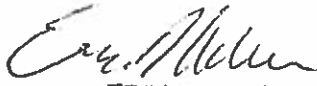
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I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,



ERIC MILLER

Greethakes, Conroy or Belt Service, Inc.
Rogers City, MI



April 21, 2017

Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure today to write you in support of the renewal application of the power purchase agreement for Viking Energy of McBain.

Viking Energy since the 1980's has been a vital part of our industrial community. Their investment in our city was the catalyst supporting additional industrial investments. They have been a reliable employer, tax payer and industrial citizen. The taxes they have paid have supported projects in the city supporting schools with a new library and athletic complex.

With the advent of green energy, Viking Energy is a prime example how that concept can be a reality. The lumber industry forest waste wood they consume as fuel provides both renewable energy and a forest that is sustainable and useable by many interests for both recreation and commerce. The State of Michigan would do well in supporting future expansion in this industry.

Please consider the renewal of the power purchase agreement for Viking Energy of McBain and know that its renewal will support renewable energy generation for some time to come.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Schepers
President



ROTHIG FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.

P.O. Box 340 • Luther, MI 49656 • Phone (231) 266-8292 • Fax (231) 266-8578

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090 and am asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

Viking Energy of McBain and Viking Energy of Lincoln are two of the plants involved. Without fair avoided costs, it and many other small power producers will close, resulting in my community losing jobs. We can't afford to lose these jobs, or the good things that biomass power does, like renewable energy, support for the grid, and providing a market for wood wastes.

These facilities have allowed us to increase jobs opportunities within my business group and provide a much-needed increase in tax dollars for our community. Using waste wood from the forest helps forest managers and the forest products industry.

Without biomass power, it will have a negative effect on our operations and ability to get rid of our wood wastes residuals created by our mill and forestry operations. This negative impact could result in the loss of jobs within these operations.

All these things make these plants more valuable than ordinary power plants and I ask the Commission to keep that in mind when making your decision.

These plants are important to our forests, industry, the state, and my community. Please support the biomass plants in your decision.

Sincerely,

President



DYER'S SAWMILL, INC.

17688 15 MILE ROAD
P.O. BOX 20
LE ROY, MICHIGAN 49655
PHONE 231-768-4438
FAX # 231-768-4996

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for Michigan's small biomass power generators that are part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090 and am asking you to adopt the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan.

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Sincerely,

Ross Rething President

★Star Staffing Alpena

div The Work Station, Inc.
537 W. Chisholm Street, Suite 100
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-2999
www.starstaffingalpena.com

Michigan Public Service Commission
Attn: Office of the Commissioners
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commissioners:

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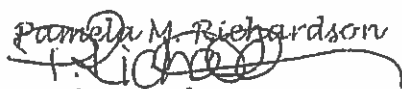
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I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,



Pamela Richardson
President / Manager
★Star Staffing Alpena
staffingalpena@gmail.com
(989) 356-2999

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I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,

Todd Shiffer

Todd Shiffer

BERNARD

M-32 PO Box 398
Hillman, MI 49746

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Michigan's biomass power industry, which is part of the Commission's avoided cost docket U-18090. We support the positions of the Independent Power Producers Coalition of Michigan in that docket, and think you should too.

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I'm asking that the Commission to keep these important benefits of biomass power in mind when making its decision.

Sincerely,

Kevin Steinke 4-21-17

Kevin Steinke owner

Thunder Bay Sanitation

P.O. Box 115

Hillman Mi. 49746

April 17, 2017



Sally A. Talberg
Chairman
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Norman J. Saari
Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Rachael A. Eubanks
Commissioner
MI Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Commissioners:

The Michigan Conservative Energy Forum (MCEF) is dedicated to educating the public and state legislature on the benefits of affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean energy that will help stimulate Michigan's economy, increase grid and national security, protect our natural resources, and contribute to a diversified energy portfolio – while also maintaining effective competition in the marketplace to keep costs low. This isn't a lofty goal; transitioning to a true "All of the Above" energy policy that emphasizes efficiency and the use of clean and renewable energy sources is what's in the best interest for the future of our state, businesses, and electric ratepayers.

That is why we are supportive of removing barriers to localized power generation and improving grid and market access for Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Doing so will not only allow these companies to compete fairly in the energy marketplace, but will help drive down electricity costs, among other benefits. Specifically, we're writing today to ask that you adopt the Transfer Price Schedule for use by Michigan IPP facilities, as advocated by the Independent Power Producers Coalition (IPPC) of Michigan in the avoided cost docket U-18090.

These small qualified facilities are a large part of Governor Rick Snyder's "Michigan-first" "no regrets" energy future and they bring a wealth of economic, electrical grid, and environmental benefits to our state. First, IPPs provide *homegrown* and baseload renewable energy, helping our state to become more energy independent. Not to mention, IPPs bring diversity to the state's energy portfolio, including system reliability. Moreover, they support local economies across the state through job creation and tax revenue, and often contribute to their local outdoor recreation industries, helping to keep our state's beautiful waterways and forests pristine. These facilities will likely close without fair avoided costs that account for these additional benefits. The Transfer Price Schedule has proven to be a fair and reliable mechanism for rate-setting, and is appropriate to apply in this case.

Small qualified power producers are a good example of a "most" reasonable and prudent source of energy for Michigan, and we encourage the Commission to recognize the value these producers provide to Michigan ratepayers, communities, and a diversified energy portfolio by agreeing with the IPPC's positions in this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry J. Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Larry J. Ward
Executive Director,
Michigan Conservative Energy Forum